

Iraq says another ship hit in Gulf

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its jet aircraft attacked another vessel in the Gulf Tuesday, south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal. A military spokesman told the Iraqi news agency the "large naval target" — a term previously used by Iraq to denote a tanker — was "accurately hit" at 1200 GMT. The Iraqi attack, so far unconfirmed by independent sources, would be the second within 24 hours on vessels in the area close to Kharg, which Iraq has declared a war zone, barred to shipping. The Cypriot supertanker Minotaur was hit by an Iraqi missile attack Monday in the same Gulf area south of Kharg (See page 2). Gulf shipping sources said the 392,543 deadweight ton Minotaur was at anchor and out of immediate danger, some 40 miles south of Kharg. They said they believed all its 27 crew were safe and salvage experts were expected to reach the ship later Tuesday night.

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King congratulates Thai, Finnish leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a congratulatory cable to the king of Thailand, congratulating him in the King's own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on the occasion of Thailand's National Day and wishing him and the Thai people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a cable to the Finnish president, congratulating him on the occasion of Finland's independence day and wishing the Finnish people further progress and prosperity.

Genscher calls for special meeting

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has called a special meeting of West European foreign ministers next January to discuss East-West relations and other current topics, the council of Europe disclosed Tuesday. It released the text of a speech given Monday to national permanent representatives at the council by one of Mr. Genscher's deputy ministers, State Secretary Jürgen W. Mollmann, outlining plans for council activities under Mr. Genscher's presidency, which runs through next May. Genscher said the meeting was to take the form of an informal, "unconstrained dialogue" among the foreign ministers of the 21 member countries of the council. Mr. Mollmann said.

India gas death toll may exceed 1,000

BHOPAL, India (R) — Indian officials said Tuesday that 564 people were known to have died following the leak of poison gas from a Bhopal pesticide factory but a news agency and hospital staff said they feared the death toll had already climbed above 1,000. A spokesman for the central Madhya Pradesh state government told Reuters in Bhopal, the state capital, that the death toll had reached 546 with the recovery of more bodies. The United Nations (UN) news agency reported that an investigation by its reporters showed that 1,102 had died in the disaster.

Policeman arrested in Gandhi murder

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police have arrested a policeman who was said to have "guided the assassins in executing the plot" to kill Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the United Nations (UN) reported Tuesday. Balbir Singh, identified as a sub-inspector of the Delhi police, was arrested Monday and remanded to police custody for two days for interrogation on Tuesday, UN said. Government officials and investigators could not be reached immediately for comment on the report.

Yemeni leaders to hold talks

BAHRAIN (R) — South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad arrived in Sanaa Tuesday for talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Saudi Press Agency reported. President Nasser Mohammad, quoted by the agency in a dispatch from Sanaa, said their talks would be within the framework of the joint Higher Yemeni Council, formed to forge unity between the two countries.

Jordanian diplomat shot dead in Bucharest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian embassy counsellor in Romania, Azmi Al Mufti, was shot dead Tuesday in Bucharest on his way to the mission, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat said Tuesday.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament, which met in a regular session Tuesday, Mr. Obeidat said Mr. Mufti, 40, was taking his child to school on his way to the embassy when he was killed by a "wicked hand."

"According to initial information available to us, the Romanian authorities arrested the killer," he added.

After Mr. Obeidat's announcement, the parliament stood in silence for one minute.

The Foreign Ministry later issued a statement saying Mr. Mufti was shot on leaving his house on his way to his office and died instantly. It gave no other details, but said a detailed statement would be issued later.

Under-secretary of Information Michel Hamaneh was quoted by the Associated Press (AP) as saying that Mr. Mufti, the second-ranking diplomat in the embassy in Bucharest, was in front of the hotel where he had been living since taking up the post in June.

He said Romanian authorities

had arrested a man in connection with the assassination, but added that he had no information about the suspect.

Reports from Bucharest said another Jordanian diplomat and Mr. Mufti's child also were injured, but Mr. Hamaneh said reports of other Jordanians shot were "not true."

The gunman shot Mr. Mufti several times with a pistol as he left the city centre hotel, Middle East diplomatic sources said, quoting eyewitnesses, according to a dispatch by Reuters.

The gunman was seized by Romanian police immediately after the attack outside Hotel Bucuresti in the heart of Bucharest, according to the witnesses.

His identity and nationality were not immediately known. The witnesses said he was of Middle Eastern appearance.

Police blocked off the short street behind the hotel, which is located on Victoriei Road, a major thoroughfare, and is about 400 metres from Palace Hall, site of

Communist Party meetings and other major official functions.

Mr. Mufti is from a prominent Jordanian family. His father served five times as Jordan's prime minister between 1950 and 1963, and other family members have held post in the government.

Before taking up the post in Bucharest, Mr. Mufti worked in Jordan's embassies in Beirut and Athens.

The House later issued a statement condemning the assassination.

"The House has been shocked at the news of the despicable crime and strongly condemns this criminal action which violates Arab and Islamic basic moral principles," the statement said. "This inhuman action can come only from people filled with malice and hatred against the Arab Nation, people who allowed themselves to serve as tools in the hands of the enemies and elements of disension," the statement added.

It said that the Lower House extends total support for the Jordanian government in taking all necessary measures that would safeguard the country's interests and those of its citizens, and called on all peace-loving nations to take concerted steps to prevent such terrorist actions from continuing.

Deputy Laith Shbeilat urged the government to take stringent

measures to protect Jordanian missions abroad "at a time when every observer of events expects such cowardly deeds."

The assault on Mr. Mufti was the second in less than a week on a Jordanian diplomat overseas.

An attempt on the life of Jordan's charge d'affaires in Athens, Assim Qutaishat, failed when the gunman's pistol jammed, according to Greek police. The police later arrested a man with a Moroccan passport, identified as Amar Mabruk, in connection with the attack.

There also were a series of attacks on Jordanian diplomats last year.

Last Dec. 29, a driver for the Jordanian embassy in Spain was shot and killed in Madrid. An employee of the embassy was also wounded in the attack.

On Nov. 7, 1983, a Jordanian security guard for the embassy in Athens was shot and killed in the Greek capital and another guard was wounded.

Jordan's Ambassador to Italy Tayseer Touqan was wounded in an assassination attempt in Rome on Oct. 26, 1983, and the country's ambassador to India, Mohammad Ali Khurma, was shot the previous day.

Azmi takes stand with martyrs, by Musa Kellani, page 3

Hijackers kill 1 passenger, free 19 at Tehran airport

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Hijackers forced Kuwaiti Airways plane to Tehran's Mehrabad airport Tuesday and killed one hostage, but later released 19 women and children from the plane, the Iranian news agency, IRNA, said.

A crew member of an incoming Iranian flight said he had overheard the hijackers telling control tower officials that they would start killing one passenger every 15 minutes, starting with Britons, according to a dispatch by Reuters.

The crew member quoted the hijackers as telling the control tower in Arabic: "We are against the British. As long as there is a Briton on board we will not hurt the others."

It was not known how many Britons were among at least 155 people aboard the Kuwait Airways Airbus. But diplomatic sources said the pilot, whom they named as J.A.K. Clark, was British, and there were possibly two others.

The freed passengers were five women and 14 children, most of them Pakistanis, IRNA said.

They were freed following negotiations at 1740 local time (1310 GMT), twelve hours after the hijacked Airbus with 161 people aboard was forced to land at Mehrabad airport, IRNA said.

The Kuwaiti jet had taken off from Kuwait the Monday night with 150 passengers and 11 crew on a flight to Karachi, Pakistan, via Dubai.

About 20 hours after the plane was commandeered, no announcement had been made of any demands by the hijackers, believed to number five.

Security guards at the airport and IRNA said one passenger had been killed and another wounded during a scuffle on board after the plane had landed in Tehran.

A security guard at the airport told Reuters a man, whose identity was not known, had been shot and then kicked off the plane. The hijackers then fired at the body again on the tarmac, the guard said.

IRNA said the man died on the way to hospital. The wounded passenger was not allowed to leave the plane, but the hijackers called for and received medical

aid.

IRNA said the plane was standing on a side runway with all blinds drawn and under heavy guard. About 20 emergency vehicles were standing by several hundred metres away.

Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Tehran was called to the airport to help negotiations with the hijackers, whose identities were not known.

In Islamabad, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency reported there were 127 Pakistanis among those on board the hijacked plane.

The agency quoted civil aviation authorities in Karachi as saying 28 other people on the Airbus were from various unspecified countries.

Pakistani officials said most of the passengers were Pakistani workers in the Gulf returning home.

APP said the Iranian charge d'affaires in Islamabad was called to the Foreign Ministry and told of Pakistan's deep anxiety and concern over the hijack.

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis kill woman in S. Lebanon village

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli occupation troops shot and killed a woman after entering a South Lebanon village and coming under attack from villagers throwing stones, according to reports reaching here.

Sources quoted by the Associated Press in Tel Aviv said soldiers in the Israeli patrol opened fire after the villagers in Jibchit pelted them with rocks in an incident Monday evening. They then withdrew from the village.

Lebanese newspapers identified the victim as 35-year-old Meryam Ahmad Nahhal. The

newspaper said three other villagers also were wounded, including an 11-year-old boy.

Israeli troops imposed a curfew in the town after the confrontation and brought in reinforcements of about 50 vehicles. Lebanese newspapers reported. The curfew was lifted at 4 a.m. Tuesday, the newspapers reported.

Jibchit, six kilometres southwest of the market town of Nabatieh, is a focal point of resistance to the Israeli occupation.

The Israeli army tries to stay out of Shi'ite villages and has handed over many checkpoints in the vil-

lages to its Lebanese allies, the "South Lebanon Army" militia. The sources said they did not know the specific reason why the Israeli patrol entered the village.

Three Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded about noon Tuesday near the eastern Lebanese town of Madoukha when the armed personnel carrier in which they were travelling drove over a roadside bomb, the Israeli military command announced in Tel Aviv.

Madoukha is along Israel's "front line" in the Bekaa Valley, six kilometres from the Syrian border.

Israel unhappy over Egypt-Jordan statement

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is unhappy about an Egyptian-Jordanian statement Monday calling for an international Middle East peace conference and will seek clarification from Cairo, a senior official said Tuesday.

Asked to comment on a Jerusalem Post report Tuesday describing Israel's reaction to the statement as "dismay", the official said:

"It would not be difficult to find reasons for dismay, anger and even sorrow. We are studying the text and will be seeking clarification through our embassy in Cairo about certain points."

The Cairo statement, issued Monday as a joint communique

with Jordan following a state visit by King Hussein, called for Palestinian "self-determination in the form they see fit on their national soil" and for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any peace talks.

The Israeli official, who spoke on condition he was not identified, said Israel was still studying the communique. He said the communique contained statements that Israel found "unacceptable" but "it would be premature to say it is a deviation from the Camp David" agreements between Egypt and Israel.

In a speech to parliament Monday, Prime Minister Shimon Peres

also rejected the call by Egypt and Jordan for an international peace conference, charging that such a conference would be weighted against Israel and would be used to "pressure" Israel for "concessions."

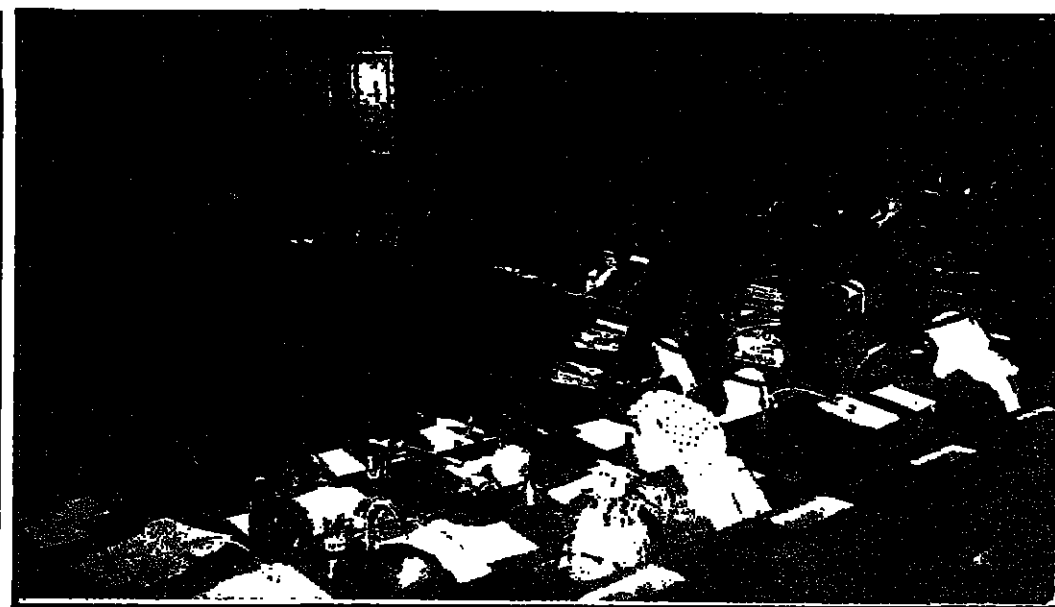
Mr. Peres also ruled out negotiations with the PLO but said he would welcome Palestinian delegates in peace talks who were not PLO members.

He again invited Jordan to negotiate directly with Israel.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a visiting Italian Deputy Premier Bruno Corti on Tuesday that the PLO was the major "obstacle" to peace, the ministry official said.

British society honours Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the honorary fellowship certificate of the British Royal Aeronautical Society which was presented to him by the association's president, Dr. Pardoe. King Hussein then listened to a lecture by Dr. Pardoe, entitled "How could Jordan benefit of the Air Space programmes?" Attending the celebration were Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid and Transport Ministry Undersecretary Nazem Aref, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority Khaled Mohammad Ali and his aides, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Chairman Ali Ghandour, Alia Director General Jamal Balqaz, President of the Royal Scientific Society Fakhraddin Al Daghestani and a number of military and civil officials in addition to the British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Arthur John Coles.



The Lower House of Parliament in session Tuesday (Petra photo)

Lower House expresses total support for King's call to PLO

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday expressed total support for His Majesty King Hussein's call for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political initiative to solve the Palestinian problem and Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat reiterated that Jordan will not join any separate settlement with Israel.

A statement issued by the Lower House following an ordinary session Tuesday expressed appreciation for the "framework that the King outlined for a future joint Jordanian-Palestinian political action to solve the Palestinian question."

In his opening speech at the 17th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last week, King Hussein called on the Palestinians to formulate a joint political initiative based on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Tuesday's Lower House statement said that the King's speech was "clear and frank and consistent with Jordan's constant policy towards the Palestinian question."

It also thanked the King for hos-

ting the PNC in Amman "which expressed the King's sincere concern over the future of the Palestinian cause and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

In a short speech Tuesday Mr. Obeidat reiterated the King's pledge in his PNC speech that "Jordan will not enter in any unilateral treaties with Israel." The prime minister said that convening the council in Amman "was not a continuation of Jordanian-Palestinian talks."

Earlier in the session Mr. Obeidat said that there were "no secret discussions between the PLO and Jordan" on the fringes of the PNC. Mr. Obeidat's remarks came in reply to a request by the deputy of Bethlehem, Edward Khamis, on the government "to disclose details of the deliberations between the PLO and the Jordanian government before and after the PNC."

But, the prime minister, apparently irritated by Mr. Khamis' suggestion, replied: "There were no deliberations between the two sides on the means of liberating the usurped Arab territories."

Talks between senior officials of both sides preceded and followed the convening the PNC, and according to Mr. Obeidat, they focused on preparations for the PNC and did not involve joint future political moves.

"PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat asked us to host the PNC in Amman and we agreed and naturally we discussed together the complicated procedure involved," he said.

The prime minister implied that the Jordanian government did not interfere in the PNC and that the Palestinians were free to decide on their internal affairs and make final decisions on their own.

"We were not partners in the PNC," Mr. Obeidat said. "The PNC sessions were open from the beginning to end and there were no secret talks of any kind between Jordan and the PLO."

Mr. Khamis had also expressed "disappointment" at the final resolutions endorsed by the PNC in Amman.

"Unlike our expectations, the final PNC resolutions did not reflect any indication of a near political move to solve the Middle East question or to liberate the Israeli occupied Arab territories," he said. "The Palestinian people were expecting positive resolutions that will contribute to

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Kuwait Tuesday from Saudi Arabia for talks with Kuwaiti officials, the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, said.

Palestinian sources, quoted by KUNA, said Mr. Arafat would brief officials on last week's meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman and plans for a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative to revive the Middle East peace process.

In Riyadh, on the first leg of a tour of Arab countries, Mr. Arafat had talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

The PLO leader was quoted by the United Arab Emirates news agency WAM as saying that "escalation of military action within the (Israeli) occupied Arab territories and South Lebanon is foremost on the programme of the PLO in the coming stage."

In an interview conducted by WAM while Mr. Arafat was in Amman, Mr. Arafat hailed the "firm backing" he said the PLO was getting from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Mr. Arafat called for "the return of Egypt to its natural place within the Arab Nation," expressing conviction that current inter-Arab differences were "but the difficult delivery pains of a great birth for the (Arab) Nation."

There has been no indication however that Mr. Arafat planned to include Cairo on the wide-scale tour of Arab capitals he was said to be contemplating after the PNC meeting in Amman.

Turning to the United States, Mr. Arafat said in the interview with WAM that Washington's "dramatic bias for the Israeli enemy on Arab causes... cannot go on for long."

Israel-PLO recognition is key to peace, Ghali says

GENEVA (R) — Mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the key to accelerating the Middle East peace process, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said Tuesday.

"If mutual recognition can be obtained this will help create a new momentum in favour of the peace process," he told Reuters in an interview following Tuesday's joint Egyptian-Jordanian call for an international Middle East peace conference.

"There is the political will in the PLO, in the Egyptian administration and in the Jordanian administration to do something now," Mr. Ghali added.

He acknowledged that the attitude of Syria, part of whose ter-

ritory (the Golan Heights) is occupied by Israel, would also be a vital factor.

Ideally, he said, all countries should participate but failing that "it would be very negative to postpone the peace process until we can obtain the participation of all concerned."

"What we are aiming for is that at least, in the beginning of a new peace process, we can obtain from Syria an attitude of neutrality towards it rather than one of hostility and opposition," Mr. Ghali said.

The Palestinian problem was the first priority but at a later stage a global solution would require the negotiated withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights, he added.

Chernenko accepts idea of early summit with Reagan

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko told U.S. industrialist Armand Hammer Tuesday that he would agree to an early summit with President Reagan provided the United States met certain conditions, Mr. Hammer said.

The 86-year-old oil tycoon, who maintains close contacts with Soviet leaders, told a news conference he sought Mr. Chernenko's views on a summit at a meeting in the Kremlin.

Mr. Hammer also quoted Mr. Chernenko as saying it was time to "roll up one's sleeves and get down to business" on arms control.

Mr. Chernenko invited Mr. Hammer to Moscow to discuss U.S.-Soviet relations at a time of renewed dialogue between the superpowers.

Mr. Hammer said he asked Mr. Chernenko if he would agree to an early summit if Mr. Reagan accepted a Soviet plan for a treaty banning first use of nuclear weapons and if a meeting in January between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was a success.

"His answer was yes," Mr. Hammer said.

The industrialist stressed that he had no mandate from Washington and was representing only his own views.

Mr. Reagan has offered to meet Mr. Chernenko but the Soviet leader said last month the time was not right.

Moscow has urged Washington to agree to the nuclear treaty as a step towards mutual trust, but the United States and its allies have not accepted the proposal.

Mr. Hammer, who first held talks in the Kremlin 63 years ago when he met Lenin, made public a statement given to him by Mr. Chernenko repeating the Soviet view that it was up to Mr. Reagan to put his conciliatory language into action.

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Lebanon to keep Palestinians out of South, officials say

By Andrew Tarnowski

Reuter

BEIRUT — The Lebanese army can and will stop Palestinian commandos returning to South Lebanon if it takes over the South after an Israeli withdrawal, according to highly-placed Lebanese officials.

They said Lebanon would never again let the South become a base for commando attacks on Israel and that it planned to ask Syria to close Palestinian bases in some parts of central Lebanon controlled by the Syrian army.

Briefing journalists on military and political moves for an eventual army move into the South, officials contradicted recent Lebanese public statements that the army would not police the region for the Israelis when they left.

They insisted that Lebanese troops could stop Palestinians entering the South more effectively than the U.N. troops and a pro-Israeli militia proposed by Israel.

Israel, which invaded Lebanon in 1982 to dislodge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), says its main concern at current troops withdrawal talks is to seek measures to stop future commando attacks on its territory from Lebanon.

Sceptical that Lebanon's army can do the job, Israel has proposed a secondary role for it in part of

the South. Beirut says it should take over the whole area, backed by U.N. troops.

One official said the key to current plans to deploy the army in militia areas outside Beirut, and later in the South, was "whether the Lebanese army is ready to do the task."

He said the 38,000-strong army was recovering from poor morale and sectarian divisions suffered after fighting opposition militias this year, and had 19,000 men "ready for any operational test."

He said the army would be fully determined that the South is not going back to terrorist activities.

One official said, "We accept no more Palestinian revolutionary war with South Lebanon as a base for departure," another added.

Despite recent PLO claims to the contrary, they said there was no armed Palestinian organisation in the South and no Palestinian resistance.

But the security arrangements

proposed by Israel at the talks in the southern town of Naqura would make it difficult for Lebanon to prevent future infiltration, the officials said.

Israel says it wants to divide the region into a northern zone controlled by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with Lebanese army backing, and a border area under the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) of former Lebanese Brig. Antoine Lahd.

"These Israeli zones will create a lot of problems for us and we couldn't prevent infiltration," an official said. "We believe if you put UNIFIL in one strip and the SLA in another, then you can't stop terrorist activities."

"(UNIFIL) people from Norway and Sweden can't deal with southerners. They don't know their language or their culture."

"They can't produce better results than the Lebanese army. Half of the men come from the South and can pick up foreigners immediately."

Echoing the opinion of Western military observers, who say the 2,500-strong SLA militia will split along sectarian lines when the Israelis go, he said: "I am sure the Israelis will realise one day the Lahd army is not the right solution."

In contrast, "all Lebanese will help the army keep foreigners out of the South," because of their bitter experience of instability, the

official said.

He said Lebanon would never again sign an agreement allowing Palestinian commandos to operate from its territory, such as the 1969 Cairo agreement with the PLO.

"There will be no more agreements allowing Palestinians to operate in Lebanon." Although the Cairo agreement has not been abrogated, the official said: "It does not exist any more. It is obsolete."

Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri, Lebanon's minister for the South, has also said the agreement "has collapsed and become void as a result of events."

Asked if Beirut had asked Syria to close Palestinian bases in Syrian-occupied areas of Lebanon, an official said: "This will be part of the mountain plan. Lebanon wants to ask the Syrians to close down Palestinian bases in the area."

The "mountain plan" is the final stage of a plan to deploy troops outside Beirut in agreement with Lebanon's major sectarian forces. It includes a move down to Israeli lines, possibly this week, and later into mountains above Beirut.

Several Palestinian groups have bases in the central mountains, as well as in parts of the eastern Bekaa Valley, but the official did not say which bases might be closed.



Masri receives Spanish team

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri conferred here Tuesday with a visiting Spanish delegation which represents various political and economic sectors.

Mr. Masri discussed with the visitors the Middle East question

and the need for establishing a durable and just solution to the Palestine problem. He also explained Jordan's views for holding an international conference on the Middle East and spoke about Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab lands and its drive

to expropriate Arab territories and evict Palestinians from their land.

During the meeting, bilateral relations were also discussed. The meeting was attended by Spain's ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez Del Valle.

Security tightened at UAE embassies

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan, said Tuesday that security had been tightened at all UAE embassies.

Speaking at the opening of the UAE Consultative Council, he said the UAE would not yield to terrorism or blackmail.

"We have instructed the Foreign Ministry to take necessary measures to tighten security around UAE embassies and to protect our diplomats," he said.

The last attack on a UAE diplomat was in October, when the second secretary at the embassy in Rome was wounded in a shooting. A group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Brigades claimed responsibility.

The UAE president said he held host countries responsible for the protection of UAE diplomats abroad against terrorism.

"But the UAE will not succumb to terrorism and cheap blackmail," he said. "The blood of martyrs will only increase our det-

ermination to continue our policies." The UAE Cabinet and Foreign Office had been instructed to work for the protection of the UAE diplomatic missions abroad, but the "host countries must safeguard and are responsible for the lives of our sons in the embassies," Sheikh Zayed declared.

Bahrain's prime minister recently called for economic sanctions against countries that harbour terrorists.

In his wide-ranging speech, delivered on his behalf by the UAE Minister of Health Hamad Abdul Rahman Al Madfa, Sheikh Zayed stressed his country was ready to exert every possible effort to help arrange a negotiated settlement between warring Iran and Iraq.

He also called on all Arab leaders to transcend their differences so that a twice-postponed pan-Arab summit conference can get off the ground.

All crew rescued from hit Gulf tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Three crew members of a Cypriot supertanker were reported rescued Tuesday, 22 hours after an Iraqi warplane fired a rocket into the vessel's engine room and set it ablaze, marine salvage executives here said.

The three were trapped behind a "fire exit door" inside the blazing room and "have been saved miraculously," said one executive. "We are glued to our radio monitors, because we expect the Iraqis to retaliate with a raid on any ship in the southern Gulf waters," said the executive, who refused to be identified.

The attack was the first on a tanker in the Gulf in six weeks. An Iraqi military spokesman in Baghdad confirmed that Iraqi jet fighters hit a "large naval target" but he gave no details.

The 386,343-ton Minotaur with a crew of 27 had been en route to Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal to pick up a load of crude, the executives said.

The Iraqis, who have been at war with Iran for more than four years, have frequently raided commercial vessels calling at Iranian ports in an attempt to undermine the Iranian economy by blocking its oil exports.

A shipping company executive in Bahrain said tugboats approaching the Minotaur had radioed that it was hit by a heat-seeking Exocet missile, a type that Iraqi French-built Super Etendard planes are believed to have

used in past attacks on vessels near Kharg Island. The executive spoke on condition of anonymity. Iranian army helicopters were reported to have helped fight the flames aboard the tanker.

The stricken vessel is owned by Moon Field Shipping Co. Ltd., in Limassol, Cyprus, marine salvage sources said it is managed by Offshore Oil Services (U.K.) Ltd., based in London.

A British seaman aboard a stranded freighter off the coast of Bahrain picked up the Minotaur distress signal by accident and communicated it to the Associated Press (AP).

He quoted the unidentified captain of the tanker as saying in a radio message: "We are hit by a rocket... the engine room is on fire... we need help... our crew of 27... three of them are missing and we cannot find them... it is getting very hot here."

The captain said the ship was struck at 11:35 a.m. (08:35 GMT). The tugboat Salviva of the Gray

McKenzie Co., a British firm, took to sea and hours later reportedly brought "the Minotaur lame under control."

The Bahrain-based marine shipping executives quoted the Minotaur captain as saying in a radio message that "my ship now is out of danger... the fire has been brought under control."

Cornelius Pronk, the Dutch captain of the Osea Guna 1 tugboat, told the AP in a ship-to-ship radio interview that the Minotaur was "safe, five hours after the attack."

"The Minotaur is in anchor where it was hit and would probably require a tug to proceed on" to Iranian waters and Kharg, said Capt. Pronk, whose tug was under charter by the Dutch marine salvage company, Sanit International. In Singapore, a spokesman for the Selco Salvage Company said its tugs Salviva and Salvador had taken the Minotaur in tow and were taking it to an undisclosed destination.

American librarian kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — An American librarian with heart disease has been missing for three days and is feared kidnapped, colleagues at the American University in Beirut (AUB) have said.

The colleagues, who declined to be identified, said Peter Kilburn, a bachelor in his late 50s who has worked for the university for some 20 years, was last seen on Friday evening by a student.

University spokesman Redwan Mawlawi said: "For the moment we only consider him missing." He said the university was still searching for Mr. Kilburn, had received no information of a kidnapping.

But one colleague said a search of his apartment showed that although his walking cane was gone, his medicines, without which he could not live for long, were still there.

"Peter has a very weak heart and has had several strokes," the colleague said. "None of us can believe they'd kidnap a man like that. He could hardly see or walk."

Four other middle-aged Americans have been kidnapped in Beirut since February, including an AUB professor who was freed by members of the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" Movement.

Peres to seek greater European role in peace efforts

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is expected to express support for a greater West European role in Middle East peace efforts during his official three-day visit to Paris, which begins Wednesday.

At the same time he is likely to reaffirm Israel's opposition to, a proposed international peace conference and stress its preference for direct negotiations with its Arab neighbours, diplomatic sources said.

The visit, the first to France by an Israeli prime minister at an official level for 20 years, marks the latest stage of a personal initiative by French President Francois Mitterrand to help break the deadlock in the peace process.

It also coincides with gathering momentum in the Middle East for a new approach to a settlement, notably through a rapprochement of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Israeli officials said Mr. Peres would show a new openness to a

role by the European Community. Since taking office last July, the Labour Party chief has tried to move away from the attitude of the previous right-wing administration that European involvement was pro-Arab and detrimental to Israel's interests, they said.

He recently told a parliamentary committee that Israel should adopt a positive line towards the 10-nation bloc and urge it to play a "constructive role" in the Middle East.

But his policy apparently contrasts with that of the foreign ministry under coalition member Yitzhak Shamir, with whom he shares power following inconclusive elections last July. A senior ministry official told community ambassadors last week that their countries should change their approach, which he said was unbalanced in favour of the Arabs.

Mr. Mitterrand will be briefing Mr. Peres on his visit in the past few months to Jordan, Egypt and

Syria, where he was urged to back proposals for a wide-based peace conference under United Nations auspices.

Israel and the United States have rejected the idea, which would involve negotiating with the PLO and the Soviet Union. Mr. Mitterrand feels such a gathering would be worthwhile only if the participants had reached advance agreement on key issues.

Mr. Peres made it clear in a recent interview with L'Express, a French magazine, that Israel maintained its preference for direct talks with Arab states.

"There is no shortage of plans in the Middle East. What we really need is to find a partner. I am trying to create an atmosphere in which a partner can come and negotiate with us," he said.

In a reference to the Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "We don't need a partial intermediary. If we get a chance to talk with (Syrian President Hafez) Assad, we'll do it directly. You don't have to go to

Arar returns from talks in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Facilitating the travel of Arab citizens in Arab countries was one of the main topics discussed by the Arab Interior Ministers' Council at a session in Tunis, Interior Minister Suleiman Arar announced here upon returning from the meeting.

He said that the council also discussed a pan-Arab strategic security plan and set up an 11-member committee to draw up the plan.

The council also discussed the implementation of earlier council resolutions and looked into amendments of a number of by-laws and approved the setting up of an Arab bureau for the protection and rescue of civilians, which will be based in Casablanca, the minister said.

It also deplored Israel's arbitrary measures in southern Lebanon and praised the heroic Lebanese resistance.

The council issued a statement at the end of its meetings Monday evening condemning Iranian aggression and Iran's inhuman treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war. The statement voiced the council's support for Iraq's efforts to establish peace in the Gulf region and called on Iran to put an end to the tragic war.

It also deplored Israel's arbitrary measures in southern Lebanon and praised the heroic Lebanese resistance.

The four were identified as Britons Anthony Gill and Godfrey Shiner and Maltese Romeo Nicholas Schembri and Edgar Bonicci-Cachia.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL

14:30 Koran
15:00 Live transmission from Palace of Culture - Festival of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein
17:15 Religious Programmes
18:05 Islamic Stories
19:10 Special symposium on Prophet's Birthday
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Religious Play
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Religious Play (Contd.)
23:45 Religious Programme
24:00 Royal Anthem (signing off)

FOREIGN CHANNEL

19:00 French Programme
19:30 News in French
19:45 French Programme
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Let them be Love
21:30 Documentary (Rheumatoid)
22:00 News in Arabic
22:15 "V" - Eps. 9

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parity on 9360 KHz, SW

BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 News 06:30 Waveguide Report 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 The World 07:10 World News 07:15 What's New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 News 08:30 Omnibus 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Report on Religion 09:45 The World 10:00 World News 10:05 News 10:10 World News 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 The First Half Century 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:10 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 The Brotherhood of Brass 12:00 News Summary: A Silent Life 12:30 World News 12:35 News about Britain 13:15 Images of Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 World News 14:15 Nature Notebook 14:25 The Evening News 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The Ideal Case 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Report on Religion 17:00 World News 17:15 Incredible Flautist 17:30 Two Cheers for November 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Monitor 19:25 New Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 News 20:05 Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Good Books 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Assignment 23:00 News Summary: U.K. Network 23:15 Album 24:00 World News: The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Images of Britain 01:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"An art exhibition entitled 'Meditations' by Hussein Dal'at at 5 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 5)

"An art exhibition by Saleh Abu Shandi (drawings and paintings) at the Royal Cultural Centre from Dec. 1-6.

FILMS

"Chinese Roulette (colour) at 8:00 p.m., Goethe Institute.

"Turkish bazaar at Hussein Youth City, organised by the YWMA.

VIDEO

"Video films, 4:30 at French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 661026/7
American Centre: 44371
Jewish National Library: 41520
British Council: 36147-R
French Cultural Centre: 37009
Goethe Institute: 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre: 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre: 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre: 39777
Haya Arts Centre: 665195
Hussein Youth City: 667181
Y.W.M.C.A.: 41793
J.W.M.A.: 664251
American Cultural Centre: 36111
University of Jordan Library: 43555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (5th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crater Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists.

ARRIVALS

06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:00 Karachi (KA)
07:30 Agaba (RJ)
08:30 Sanaa (IV)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
12:45 Abu Dhabi, Doha (KA)
14:00 Kuwait (RJ)
15:10 Jeddah (SV)
15:10 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:35 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:30 Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)
06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Damascus, Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:50 Cairo (EA)
08:30 Athens (OA)
08:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (KA)
10:55 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
12:00 Belgrade, London (RJ)
14:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
14:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA)
15:40 Kuwait (RJ)
16:40 Jeddah (SV)
18:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:00 Kuwait (RJ)
19:40 Dhahran (RJ)
20:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (SV)
20:30 Sanaa (IV)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
23:10 Cairo (EA)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubiedh, 37440.
De la Sade Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Assiout Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Jordan National Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

04:54 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise
11:26 Dhuhur
14:12 Asr
16:38 Maghrib
17:50 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200, where it should always be verified.

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

Boleslaw Krzywousty
Kaptan Marresev
Jeddah Crown
Nakso Nadilo
Nakso Tamur
Midhat
Arabella
Al Khansaa
Kafes Star
Kirkuk
Jeddah Crown
Kafes Tamur
Kafes

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local teller rates in JLD

Belgian franc 64.7/ 65.1
Dutch guilder 115.3/ 116
Egyptian guinea 311/ 315.6
French franc 25.9/ 26.7
Iraqi dinar 331.6/ 336.5
Italian lire (for 100) 21/ 21.2
Japanese yen (for 100) 162.5/ 163.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1329/ 1333.6
Lebanese lira 49.2/ 50.1
Omani rial 1159/ 1163.3
Qatari riyal 109.5/ 110.1
Saudi riyal 112.8/ 113.5
Swedish crown 45.7/ 46
Swiss franc 157.6/ 158.5
Syrian lira 109.3/ 110.1
UAE dirham 1.9/ 2.0
U.K. sterling pound 482.7/ 485.6
U.S. dollar 402.5/ 404.5
W. German mark 130/ 130.8

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman 14, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 775121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 220003
Police rescue 193, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 42421-4
Akhil Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42562
Malhas, J. Amman 280740
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 667158
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Amman 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665392
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Khalid Abu Khamis 770468

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul

Mreish pharmacy 770910
Narouth pharmacy 23672
Um Hisham pharmacy 22784
Al Sayed pharmacy 35612
Ghassan pharmacy 774497

TAXIS

Min taxi 44433
Grand Palace taxi 667079
Medina taxi 813813
Faisal taxi 22051
Rashed taxi 22023
Tala taxi 25021

IRBD

Dr. Mohammad Kh. Zu'bi (—)
Ibn Sina pharmacy 2615

ZARQA

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 986432
Hikma pharmacy (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Police complaints 666412
Price complaints 666

Jordan Times

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Speedy Shimon

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quick off the mark to pour cold water on the Jordanian-Egyptian position on peace talks with Israel, which was announced Monday after the visit to Egypt of King Hussein and Queen Noor. Why is Mr. Peres in such a hurry to turn down Arab peace gestures? After all, we were told many times in recent years that the Labour crowd is different from the crazies of Likud. We were told the Labour crowd favoured a territorial compromise, an exchange of land for peace. So why does Mr. Peres turn his thumbs down and put his sense of statesmanship in his back pocket when two key Arab parties make serious peace noises?

The Peres approach is telling. Mr. Peres says he will never talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), because it is a terrorist organisation, but prefers to hold talks with King Hussein on the future of the Palestinians. Israeli prime ministers should think twice before saying they will "never" do something. We recall how Israelis said they would "never" leave the Sinai, and "never" evacuate their settlements there. When they were confronted with an Arab peace offer that was too good to refuse, they left the Sinai and physically destroyed their settlements there. So when an Israeli prime minister says he will never speak to the PLO, he means he will speak to the PLO when conditions are propitious for such a dialogue.

The idea of having talks with Jordan to resolve the Palestine issue is a waste of time. Jordan has made it clear it will not speak for the Palestinians, and the Palestinians have a generally competent leadership in the PLO that is the only genuine leadership they have ever had. We also remember what happened when Egypt tried to speak for the Palestinians a few years ago in the Camp David autonomy talks. Nothing happened, in fact, because only the Palestinians can speak for themselves, and only they can make peace with Israel.

Mr. Peres is the hesitant leader of a weak coalition. It is a shame, but perhaps no surprise, that he rejects Arab offers of peace and moderation so speedily, for he seems more interested in keeping the support of the crazies of the right in Israel than in bringing peace to his people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: To stop a sliding cart

IN THE present dark age in Arab history citizens cling to the faintest rays of hope and consider these rays as marking the advent of a bright day. In the midst of Arab paralysis and the disarray and the lack of solidarity and unity of action, citizens can only hope that a day will come when the leaders of the Arab Nation will forge a new course of action that will ensure a restoration of rights and peace.

The meeting of the Palestine National Council in Amman and the meeting of King Hussein with President Mubarak in Cairo represent to us new rays of hope for a greater future. Perhaps these meetings acted to show the way the other Arab countries should follow if they want to end the darkness and come out into the light.

The meetings of Amman and Cairo displayed a beginning of Arab solidarity, and represented a first step in the long march towards fulfilling our objectives. If the Arabs in general fail to adopt similar actions and fail to understand the need for unity and solidarity, they will soon be facing a common danger. Everything should be done now to stop the cart from sliding down into the abyss.

Al Dustour: Promising communique

THE JOINT communique issued after King Hussein's visit to Egypt reflects the national orientation of both Egypt and Jordan and their political stands. It also reflects their determination to pursue work towards serving the higher Arab interests. The communique stressed the need for achieving Arab solidarity and unifying Arab ranks in a constructive manner for the sake of restoring Arab rights.

The communique considered the Palestine National Council's session held in Amman as a legitimate practice by the Palestinians who should maintain their independent decision. The joint communique said that the Palestine problem should be the concern of all Arab countries and that there must be a pan-Arab action to back Palestinian rights and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

On the Arab front the communique voiced the two countries' total support for and solidarity with Iraq in its war with Iran in defence of the Arab homeland. It said all Arab efforts should focus their attention on ending the pitiable situation in the Gulf and bring about an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shaab: Successful visit, talks

THE SUCCESS of King Hussein's visit to Egypt marks a new beginning in the course of joint Arab action designed to achieve for the Arabs their goals and objectives. Egypt has endorsed King Hussein's proposals, which he had submitted to the Palestine National Council in Amman because it sees in them the best available formula for Arab action and a solution to the Middle East question.

The five-point formula which the King presented to Egypt's parliament also contains the basic elements required for establishing stability and peace. This Jordanian formula is designed to break the current deadlock in the efforts to resolve the Palestine problem, and the exchange of land for peace is a feasible formula that can restore Arab rights in Palestine. No doubt Egypt's endorsement of King Hussein's proposals will add more meaning and support for the Jordanian policy and could mean a beginning of an all-out effort on the part of the Arabs to take the initiative in solving their problems.

The Jordanian formula should also be accepted by the world community since it contains elements backed by the U.N. resolutions on Palestine and because it calls for the convening of a U.N.-sponsored international conference to discuss the issue.

The visit to Egypt was successful not only for the identical views of Cairo and Amman on tackled political affairs but also since it enhanced the course the two countries have taken to promote their economic cooperation.

Zia reappoints himself president via referendum

By Tom Heneghan
 Reuter

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has effectively reappointed himself president by calling a snap referendum on his policies that will give him a five-year mandate when it is passed, opposition politicians and foreign diplomats said Sunday.

Gen. Zia, who announced the surprise Dec. 19 vote in a hastily arranged broadcast last night, has also downgraded elections he has promised by March to usher in a new era of civilian rule, they said.

By scrapping his original plans to have a president chosen by the National Assembly after the election, they say Gen. Zia has all but shattered the hopes of moderate politicians that he might allow some political liberalisation to take place.

There was little doubt that the

president, who will ask in the referendum whether voters agree with his drive to introduce Islamic laws here and want to see it continued, had struck upon a question few voters could reject.

"Pakistan was founded as a homeland for Muslims," one Western diplomat said. "Asking Pakistanis whether they support Islam is like asking Israelis whether they support Judaism."

Leaders of the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) Saturday night denounced the referendum as a transparent bid to prolong army rule and charged it would be rigged. Their comments were banned from the partially-controlled press.

The 11-party MRD alliance, which last week launched its campaign to boycott the elections, decided at emergency meetings Sunday to urge the people to boycott the referendum as well.

But while the politicians predicted a massive boycott, the diplomats said they felt Gen. Zia, who seized power in 1977, was now stronger than ever and would have little problem getting what he wanted.

The referendum will focus on Gen. Zia's drive to introduce laws based on Koranic teachings in place of the secular legal system left over from the pre-1947 British raj.

Following traditional Muslim values, his "Islamisation" programme has introduced a strict moral code with harsh punishments for offenders, imposed religious taxes to help the poor and banned usury.

The Western-oriented elite chafes under his ban on alcohol, its crowd-pleasing public floggings and its reduction of women's legal status, but few are against Islam itself.

But the politicians and diplomats saw power as the real issue.

"This is only a bid to get another lease of five years by using the name of Islam," MRD central spokesman Malik Mohammad Qasim said.

The referendum announcement, which was preceded by a six-hour cabinet meeting, also shifted the political focus away from the forthcoming elections to the national and provincial assemblies.

Some moderate politicians hoped Gen. Zia might begin a process of liberalisation by opening the assemblies to more than just his staunch supporters.

Even though Gen. Zia was widely expected to stay on as president, his original plan for a controlled election with democratic trappings appeared to indicate he was concerned about gaining a

certain legitimacy from the polls.

But Gen. Zia, who discussed the possibility of a referendum last April before publicly rejecting it, appeared to turn away from his line last month when he accepted the resignation of Mahmood Haroon, his interior minister who had been contacting moderate politicians to win their support.

His firm ban on any campaigning, canvassing or public meetings on the referendum is also tougher than the original plan for the election campaign, during which he said limited political activity would be allowed.

One West European envoy said the elections were now less relevant because Gen. Zia had found a new way of making himself an elected president.

"Now he can cancel them if it looks like the opposition will make trouble and he will still be an elected president," he com-

mented.

Gen. Zia, who promised polls after overthrowing former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has since cancelled scheduled elections twice. Mr. Bhutto was hanged in 1979.

The politicians said Gen. Zia chose this point for the referendum because the MRD had announced its boycott campaign last week, but the diplomats were not convinced.

Several noted the referendum result would be announced on Dec. 22, two days before general elections in neighbouring India.

Gen. Zia mentioned threats along Pakistan's borders and foreign-paid election saboteurs several times in his speech last night. They said concern about facing up to three months of electoral uncertainty after the Indian election may have helped precipitate his decision.

Bob Hawke turns out to be vulnerable after election

By Reg Gratton
 Reuter

SYDNEY — Bob Hawke, dubbed the Messiah by newspapers here, has shown that even the most popular prime minister in Australian history can be mortal.

Although returned to office with a comfortable majority in Saturday's general election, Mr. Hawke lost seats and failed to get the massive endorsement predicted for him during the campaign.

In his second three-year term the tough-talking former trade union leader will not get the same easy ride which followed his 1983 landslide victory and, political analysts say, prompted his decision to call an election after only 20 months in office.

One major problem will be organised crime in Australia. He pledged to tackle the issue after a four-year official inquiry reported

last month that it was on the verge of getting out of control.

The Labour government headed off debate on the potentially explosive inquiry which revealed a wide crime and drugs network in Australia.

But Mr. Hawke said he would give top priority to fighting crime, including massive tax evasion which the Royal Commission detailed in its 11-volume report.

Five volumes of the commission's report were made public but the rest was kept secret pending further investigations into a number of alleged criminal matters.

The conservative opposition had accused Mr. Hawke of winning the commission up and transferring its powers to a new crime authority when close to catching major figures involved in drugs trafficking and other crimes.

Mr. Hawke, who had campaigned heavily on his successful

management of a sharp economic recovery after a devastating drought, will not get the same dream run in his next three years, according to economists.

Since he came to power he has seen the fastest real growth for over a decade, accompanied by a sharp cut in inflation, growing profits for business and rising employment.

The Labour government has established a record for pragmatic and moderate economic management which has seen the flooding of the Australian dollar and a proposed entry of foreign banks.

But Mr. Hawke could have real problems in carrying out three major election promises — restrained public spending, no overall increase in the tax burden and no rise in the budget deficit as a proportion of real growth.

Mr. Hawke's forging of a prices and incomes accord with the trade unions, a major factor in res-

training growth and inflation, was also likely to come under pressure early next year, economists said.

In foreign policy, the second Labour government will have to tackle the future of its vital ANZUS military alliance with the United States and New Zealand which has been jeopardised by Wellington's ban on visits by nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships.

Mr. Hawke said last week he would not interfere in the difficult negotiations between Australia's two allies over the treaty, a cornerstone of Canberra's defence policies.

But Washington has made it clear that the alliance is unwelcome if New Zealand's Labour government persists in its anti-nuclear policy. The crunch will come at the annual ANZUS ministerial meeting in Canberra next July.

Mr. Hawke and Labour officials

have been worried by the support given the fledgling Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP) in the Australian Senate polls.

Political analysts said New Zealand's stand had bolstered the Australian Labour Party's vocal anti-nuclear left wing which Mr. Hawke had successfully outmanoeuvred over continued uranium mining at the party conference in July.

While Mr. Hawke's reduced majority suggests his dream of a decade of Labour government may be unrealistic, his opponent Andrew Peacock has cause to celebrate even though he lost by 18 seats.

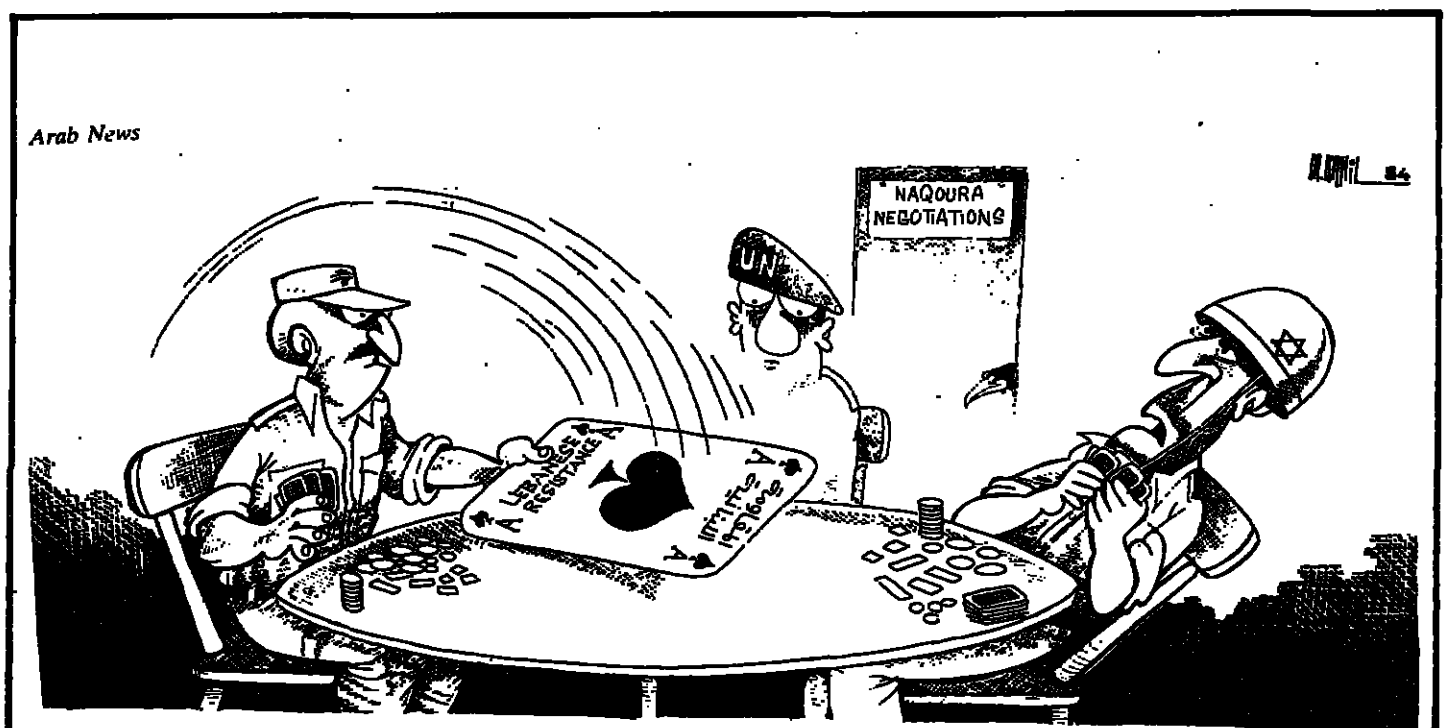
Mr. Peacock, vilified by the press for failing to substantiate claims he made last September that Mr. Hawke was a "little crook", looked to be down and out when all the opinion polls predicted a Labour avalanche.

But the former foreign minister



Bob Hawke

criss-crossed the country in a tireless campaign and his impressive performance in a live televised debate with Mr. Hawke triggered a swing back to him which seems to have ensured his political survival.



Lusinchi, Reagan discuss Contadora plan

By Harold Olmos
 Associated Press

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi will try to promote the Contadora peace proposal for Central America and to improve bilateral cooperation during an official visit to the United States this week, government sources here said.

Mr. Lusinchi left Caracas on Monday and met President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George P. Shultz on Tuesday. The sources, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said Contadora, the Caribbean, and the expansion of democracy in Latin America top their agenda.

Mr. Lusinchi, 59, is the first chief of state to meet Mr. Reagan after Mr. Reagan's overwhelming Nov. 6 election victory. According to Venezuelan analysts, this underlines the Reagan

administration's interest in preserving a traditionally close relationship with this oil-rich South American country, whose democracy has often been deemed an example for the region.

Venezuela is a key member of the Contadora Group, also made of Mexico, Colombia and Panama. Named after the Panamanian island of Contadora where their foreign ministers first met in January 1983, the group has been trying to arrange a "Latin American-made" resolution of the Central American conflict.

Its national leaders often claim that its major achievement so far has been at least to prevent a total regional war.

While the United States supports Contadora's efforts, State Department officials opposed the signing of a peace proposal the group drew up last month, saying it did not provide adequate means

to verify arms reduction and troop withdrawal.

Venezuela seems to share to some extent the Reagan administration's apprehension over Nicaragua's political course. High Venezuelan officials have frequently called upon the Sandinista government to create a pluralistic society.

But Mr. Lusinchi has also said most Central American troubles stem from social injustice and that the region should be kept from the East-West confrontation.

Mr. Lusinchi and Mr. Reagan met briefly during the opening of the United Nations General Assembly last fall. In his speech, the Venezuelan president asked the world body to declare drug trafficking a "crime against humanity."

Mr. Lusinchi's major efforts on the domestic front are devoted to fighting the recession into which

Venezuela's economy has plunged after years of a boom provided by soaring oil prices. Since petroleum prices began to decline three years ago, Venezuelan oil revenues have dropped from \$19.1 billion in 1981 to about \$14 billion this year.

The recession woes crossed with problems posed by foreign debt obligations, currently over \$35 billion, mostly owed to U.S. banks.

Mr. Lusinchi has scheduled one meeting with Mr. Reagan on Tuesday and two working meetings with Mr. Shultz. He will also confer with heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and will address the Organisation of American States.

Mr. Lusinchi will return to Venezuela on Saturday.

With Mr. Lusinchi are five of his cabinet ministers, who will meet separately with their U.S. counterparts.

NATO Europe faces hard task on weapons

By Peter Calvert
 Reuter

THE HAGUE — European NATO countries have made major progress towards cooperation over arms production but they still face serious obstacles to achieving real results, defence officials say.

After years of failure to set up effective collaboration over weapons, defence ministers from 13 Western European allies announced here on Friday that they had agreed on concrete measures to coordinate their arms needs.

They also drew up a list of weapons for possible joint production, a step which officials had previously believed would require

much longer negotiation.

The success of the two-day meeting in The Hague, emphasised by all the delegations, reflected spreading realisation of the high cost of modern weapons and the military gain from standardisation, aides said. At present, any one NATO weapon may appear in up to 20 versions made by competing firms in different nations.

But despite the progress, the really hard decisions have still to be taken, the officials added. These involve the confirmation of specific projects and enforcing the necessary compromises by national armed services and defence industries.

Reflecting these problems, min-

isters have not yet settled a timetable for agreement on project development, although senior sources at the meeting said a proposed timetable for some projects had been presented.

The conference was the first the ministers held under the aegis of the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG), set up in 1976 to further arms collaboration but moribund until revived in the past year by Dutch initiative.

Although individual NATO countries have cooperated in recent years on specific weapons projects, such as costly aircraft, attempts to achieve fuller cooperation have made no progress.

The key obstacle, says the IEPG chairman, Dutch Deputy Defence Minister Jan Van Houwelingen, has been the unwillingness of nations to force adjustments on their defence industries.

"Countries have been determined to maintain their own defence-industrial capacity, not only for general reasons of national prestige but also because of the perceived strategic need for self-reliance," he said.

Cooperation tends to force national defence industries to specialise, as projects are parcelled out to the most competent companies in any one field. Other firms may shrink or die.

Filipino opposition flounders as Marcos health seems to fail

By Graham Lovell
 Reuter

MANILA — Rumours swirling around the ill-health of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos have galvanised his opponents into a search for a successor, but they are floundering over who to choose.

"We are united in wanting to replace him but that really is about as far as it goes at the moment," said one opposition member of the National Assembly, who would himself like to be president and speaks disparagingly of other claimants.

A barrage of speculation about the president's health has swept the country. Some reports said he had undergone heart or kidney transplants, others that he had emergency surgery in the United States.

Finally, the Presidential Palace said he had been suffering from incipient influenza and he was seen on television.

But the announcement failed to stifle the rumours, and the episode has concentrated the minds of his supporters as well as opponents on the fact that President Marcos is mortal.

Names emerged of possible government ranks who probably would do well if Marcos is not a candidate at the next presidential elections in 1997 or does not finish his term and there is an early poll.

But for the opposition there seems to be no one person who would be acceptable to the broad coalition that coalesced itself together after the murder in August last year of former Senator Benigno (Ninoy) Aquino.

Mr. Aquino, returning to the Philippines from voluntary exile in the United States, had hoped to unite and lead the opposition.

He was probably the only person who could have forged an alliance among the rival factions and his death welded them into a brittle unity that found a ballot box response in parliamentary elections last May.

Even that was fragmentary. Mr. Aquino's militant younger brother Agapito led an election boycott movement supported by many veteran politicians while his widow Corason called for participation in the voting.

Now there is a broad coalition of 58 opposition members in the 183-member assembly, but they have no unifying platform.

Militants who led the boycott have been working to win over other politicians who took part in the polls with the aim of working out a post-Marcos scenario, according to the opposition newspaper Malaya.

However, political com-

mentator Jimmy Vicente wrote in the magazine Veritas: "Ninoy's dream of opposition unity appears to be slipping through the nation's fingers."

He added: "In all its previous attempts to fashion out adequate responses to political situations, (the opposition) shows a lamentable tendency to self-destruct."

Mr. Vicente described the opposition leadership as "an organism of many bodies, many minds and many ambitions."

He said: "For a long time now, the situation has been calling for opposition unity, and up to now the opposition has been everything else but united. And to all appearances, it is even getting worse..."

"Many people appear to keep missing a critical point: 'We are all in the same bus quarrelling among ourselves while the mad driver may be heading for a cliff.'"

The question has become urgent for the opposition. Under present rules of succession, if Marcos does not complete his term an election must be held within 60 days. The speaker of the National Assembly would act as interim president.

Many opposition names have been bandied about as possible presidential candidates in 1987. Among them are Corason Aquino, who shows little inclination to run, and his brother-in-law Agapito, who is less modest politically and might do so.

But up to now the opposition appears to have fixed its attention on local elections for mayors and governors in 1986, which even the banned Communist Party said it would contest.

Most commentators outside the establishment press, and even some within it, say anti-government candidates will do well in 1986 unless there is an unlikely dramatic improvement in the Philippines' economic situation.

The flurry of health rumours about Mr. Marcos, which have not been silenced by the palace denials and insistence on his recovery, has compelled his opponents to try to move their political clock forward.

But, wrote political analyst Teodoro Locsin, "If Marcos dies soon, the opposition as it is constituted at present will be caught flat-footed."

He said: "What has held the opposition together ... is the anti-Marcos sentiment. All oppositionists are in agreement, while each does his own thing, that Marcos must go."

Next month, say, The hate-Marcos bonding agent will have gone with him.

See how they grow

A FUNDAMENTALLY new approach to one of mankind's oldest problems is set out in the 1985 "State of the World's Children" report from UNICEF. The problem is child malnutrition. And according to UNICEF, it's a subject shrouded in more myths than Mount Olympus.

Marshalling recent research, the report argues that malnutrition is caused primarily by infection, not lack of food. Most malnutrition is also invisible — even to doctors. And because infections depress the appetite, most malnourished children are not even hungry. The report also says that the majority of the world's malnourished children live in homes where there is enough food to provide an adequate diet for a small child.

Such a myth-exploding set of conclusions on a subject we all thought we knew about is going to cause some rough weather in a lot of academic tea-cups. But UNICEF's purpose in advancing new ideas about the problem is to prepare the way for new attempts at a practical solution.

At the heart of UNICEF's proposals is the regular weighing of all small children each month. Entering the child's weight on a growth chart can then make the child's nutritional status visible to the one person who cares most and can do most about it — the mother. Any sign of faltering growth will show up on the growth chart long before malnutrition

begins. And with some basic advice, most mothers can then prevent malnutrition from occurring at all — even in very poor communities. That advice would probably include:

* The only food a baby needs in the first four to five months of life is breast-milk. Bottle-feeding increases the risk of infection and poor growth.

* After those first few months, the baby's growth will be in danger unless other foods are introduced. Family food will do — but add a little oil and some peeled and mashed vegetables. And keep on breast-feeding as well.

* The child's stomach is small. So it should be fed four or five times a day. Food and hands should be kept clean.

* The child must be immunised — illnesses like measles are among the biggest causes of malnutrition and poor growth.

* Oral rehydration solutions are to be used when a child has diarrhoea. The child should not be let to "go dry". Feeding, especially breast-feeding, should be carried on even if the child doesn't seem hungry. Special attention to feeding should be paid in the few days following an illness — it's a time when the body can catch up on the growth that's been lost.

The advice and the growth monitoring technique seems simple enough. But UNICEF believes that it can enable mothers to prevent more than half of all the child

malnutrition in the developing world — even within their existing resources of food and money. And they have strong support for that belief from experienced paediatricians. According to David Morley, Professor of Tropical Child Health at the University of London, "The potential impact of growth charts is nothing less than revolutionary ... and it is the informed involvement of the mother in the struggle to make sure that the child puts on weight each and every month which is perhaps the greatest contribution the growth charts can make to child development and child health."

Over 200 different kinds of growth charts are now coming into use. They can be made of virtually indestructible plastic-paper, they cost only a few cents, and they can also carry other vital messages about immunisation, weaning, breast-feeding, birth spacing, and the recipe for an oral rehydration solution.

With any idea of such vast potential, there are bound to be snags. One is the difficulty of training enough health workers or volunteers to assist mothers with growth monitoring and advice. But another of the problems is almost purely technical: the shortage of weighing devices which are accurate enough, portable enough, and cheap enough to be used by village women and health volunteers.

"The invention of an appropriate weighing device," says UNICEF, "would rightly be regarded as one of the most important technical break-throughs of



"Empowering mothers with present knowledge and techniques of child protection is the key to unlocking the potential for a revolution in child health. But the responsibility for turning that key rests with the whole of society. For the mother cannot act alone...." — *The State of the World's Children* report 1985 - UNICEF

recent years. And it is difficult to believe that the international scientific and technical profession — a profession which can launch a

2.5 ton, \$600 million device into space to measure the mass of the planets — is incapable of developing a two-kilo, \$10 device for

measuring the weight of children." — *The State of the World's Children* 1985 by UNICEF.

West plundered Egypt long ago

"Never before or since has there been such a massive and sustained plundering of a country's heritage as took place in Egypt throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries." So writes the author of *Loot! The Heritage of Plunder in the following excerpt, which describes how two magnificent works, the head of Young Memnon and the bust of Nefertiti, were spirited to Europe.*

By Russell Chamberlin

GIOVANNI Battista Belzoni was born in Padua in 1778, possessed by wanderlust. He began his wandering at the age of 13 by going to Rome. Subsequently, he surfaced in the Netherlands, and by 1803 he was in England. A giant of a man — over six foot six inches tall and broad in proportion — he first came to public notice performing a strong man act at Sadler's Wells, where he would present such turns as carrying twenty people at once.

But with the defeat of Napoleon, the world had opened out, and the ever-restless Belzoni left England for Constantinople and then for Egypt.

Among the many acquaintances this immensely clubbable man had made in Cairo was the remarkable Swiss traveller John Burckhardt, who called himself Sheikh Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah. Mr. Burckhardt gave him a vivid description of the marvels of the upper Nile, in particular of the great temple of Abu Simbel — and of an extraordinary head, known as the Young Memnon, which lay in a temple complex near Thebes. This colossal head, weighing some seven tons, was a thing of great beauty and Mr. Burckhardt himself had toyed with the idea of getting it to England. The task of moving it had defeated him; it had defeated even the French army, but it would not defeat Belzoni.

It so happened that the new English consul Henry Salt was not only himself a passionate Egyptophile, but had been specially charged by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs to keep an eye open for important antiquities —

"another Rosetta Stone" or its equivalent. The under secretary was William Hamilton, who urged Mr. Salt to spare no expense to uphold English honour against Gallic acquisitiveness.

"Whatever the expense of the undertaking, it would be most cheerfully supported by an enlightened nation, eager to anticipate its rivals in the prosecution of the best interest of science and literature." Assured by Mr. Burckhardt that the Young Memnon would indeed be a valuable acquisition, Mr. Salt advanced Mr. Belzoni £25 to collect the statue and anything else of value he could lay his hands on. In June 1816 Giovanni Belzoni embarked upon his career of collector — or plunderer — of antiquities.

He found the enormous bust of the Young Memnon in the sand at Luxor where it had lain for centuries. His equipment to move those seven solid tons could not have been cruder: some stout planks and rollers and ropes. It is difficult to establish from his own description just how he got the mass on to the crude sledge he had designed, though he noted complacently that the labourers who accomplished it thought he had done it through a charm. He employed the same transport system that the Pharaohs themselves had used — vast numbers of labourers tugging a sledge on rollers. The sculpture was brought to the banks of the Nile.

It was a massive operation, entailing the building of a causeway out into the river whence the immense block of granite was loaded onto a specially adapted barge. On Nov. 24, nearly five

months after he had left Cairo with little more than determination and imagination, he returned in triumph, bearing the great head as his journeyman's piece in his newly adopted trade. And Consul Henry Salt gave him £50 for his trouble.

Over the next 10 years, this extraordinary man was to conduct a vast one-man raiding operation on the Nile antiquities, organising an army of workmen, arranging a complex system of transport to move scores of valuable objects, some immense size, between Luxor and London.

Giovanni Belzoni returned to England in 1820. He found that he was a celebrity, a role in which he delighted and played for all that it was worth.

Mr. Belzoni never returned to Egypt; he went to Africa and died there of a fever. But his flamboyant showmanship in London — including the first public dissection of a mummy — brought the glamour of Egypt into the homes of the British. And across the Channel, in France, a similar wave of Egyptomania began building up. Never before, or since, has there been such massive and sustained plundering of a country's heritage as took place in Egypt throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Tutankhamun discovery coincided with the birth of Egyptian nationalism. It should perhaps be noted that the first reaction of the Wafdist, or nationalist, party to the news of the incredible find was that the treasures should immediately be sold and the money used to reduce the national debt. But this greatest of all archaeological discoveries became a potent symbol of nationalism. It was exacerbated by some remarkably clumsy actions on the part of the discoverers Carter and Carnarvon — of thirty-four celebrities invited to visit the

tomb on an open day in 1923 only six were Egyptian — and by their granting exclusive reporting rights to the London Times.

That particular arrangement irritated everybody. "By handing over what may be called journalistic rights in the Valley of the Tombs, they treated the find in advance as their own private property. The Egyptian government, with its newly awakened sense of nationality, has forwarded the contrary view that King Tutankhamun and his belongings are the national treasure of Egypt," thundered the Times's down-market rival, the London Daily Express.

No clearer evidence of Egyptian helplessness, of their inability to claim their own, can be provided than that extraordinary court case where an American judge arbitrated between the claims of the Englishman Howard Carter and the French director of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, Pierre Lacau, over right of access to the tomb.

The sheer glamour and scale of Mr. Belzoni's and Howard Carter's activities in Egypt serve to keep their names before the public. Almost unknown outside the ranks of Egyptologists is the name of Ludwig Borchardt, Director of the German Institute in Cairo who, in or about 1912, perpetrated a bare-faced swindle upon an ignorant government that has bedevilled Egyptian-German relations ever since.

In 1912 Borchardt was digging in the "library" of Tell El Amarna, a site which had produced some of the most vital clues to ancient Egyptian history. Following established practice, he showed the results of the dig, "many chests full," to an official of the Antiquities Service. The material, also according to now-established practice, was divided 50/50 between the Egyptian and German gov-

LOOT!

ernments. In due course, the German share was taken to Berlin and put on display. There it aroused interest, if no particular excitement.

In 1923 there suddenly appeared in the Museum what is arguably the most beautiful piece of sculpture on the planet, the limestone bust of Queen Nefertiti, wife of the heretical Pharaoh Akhenaten. It is an extraordinary piece of work, not least because it bears little resemblance to other, known, portraits of the queen.

These show a woman with pleasant, but not otherwise outstanding features, whereas the limestone bust is of a woman of almost eerie beauty, a beauty so timeless that, untouched, the bust has been used in modern cosmetic advertisements. Its appearance caused a sensation in Berlin — and explosion of anger in Cairo. How had so unique a piece of work ever left Egypt?

Ludwig Borchardt insisted that the bust had been displayed, along with other finds, to the official of the Antiquities Service in Tell El Amarna. The official had "passed" the bust, and he had taken it out of Egypt as he had a right to do.

The official proved to be a Frenchman, Mr. Lefebvre, and his specialisation was the interpretation of papyrus. He was asked how on earth he gave permission for the removal of so priceless an object as the Nefertiti bust. He "could not remember." Pressed further, it appeared that

he had given a blanket permission — in other words, he had approved the transmission of a large number of boxes containing a number of objects, but not specifically a limestone, coloured portrait bust of the wife of Akhenaten. There was, inevitably, a suspicion of bribery but no proof.

The bust disappeared briefly, but re-emerged after the war and was rehoused in the Prussian State Museum. But in the interim, Germany had become divided into two separate states and a brisk argument broke out regarding the ownership of the bust. The Federal Republic produced an official pamphlet entitled *Wem Gehört Nofretete* (To whom does Nefertiti belong?), rehearsing in minute detail the claims of West Germany — without once referring to the possible claims of its original owners, the Egyptians themselves.

But meanwhile, in Europe generally, the climate of opinion regarding colonial plunder was changing. In the 1970s the historian Philip Vandenberg began assembling material for what he called an "archaeological biography" of Nefertiti and promptly met a block: Borchardt's descendants did all they could to prevent him arriving at the truth about the transaction. In 1978 the German newspaper *Die Zeit* commissioned Gert von Paczensky to unravel the story.

Mr. Paczensky's researches show that there is no doubt whatsoever that Ludwig Borchardt was perfectly aware that the Egyptians would not allow the bust to leave Egypt, and took steps to avoid producing it to an informed investigation.

There is no indication of how the bust was actually got out of the country (for what it is worth, the present writer was told by an archaeologist in Iran that Mr. Borchardt made a number of plaster copies of the bust, left a copy in Tell El Amarna and smuggled the original out with the rest). The museum authorities were warned that under no circumstances was it to go on display.

In accordance with academic convention, Mr. Borchardt had recorded the bust's existence in the transactions of a learned society, but in such bald terms, and with such deliberately bad photography, that the value of the piece could not be recognised. In May 1918 the Museum Director Schafer was recorded as saying privately: "My colleagues and I were obliged to say that we had no space to display the bust. We were very embarrassed to have to give such a feeble reason." And in May 1924 Mr. Borchardt himself is recorded as saying: "I hid our most precious find in Berlin as long as I could."

Seventy years after it was taken out of the sands of Egypt, the bust of Queen Nefertiti, "the most beautiful woman who ever lived," remains in Germany. In the words of the American scholar John Wilson, "It represents to Egyptian nationalists the powerful exploitation of their assets by Western scholars." — *Compass* feature.

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UAE beats India in Asian Cup

SINGAPORE (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) defied a rain-soaked pitch to beat India 2-0 with two late goals in a Group 'B' match in the Asian Cup Soccer Championships here Tuesday night.

Both teams found difficulty adjusting to the wet conditions in a scoreless first half, but after the interval the Emirates side increased the pressure and broke the deadlock in the 81st minute.

Midfielder Farouk Abdul Rahman, capitalising on an Indian defensive error, weaved past three defenders to send the ball across the face of the goal for striker Adnan Khamies Al-Tallani to tap it past goalkeeper Atanu Bhattacharjee.

The Emirates team added their second goal in the last minute of the game when Fahad Mubarak powered through the defence to send a left-foot drive past Bhattacharjee from 15 metres.

The Emirates were prevented from a higher score by poor shooting and brilliant goalkeeping in the first half.

Referee Abu-Wahed of Oman cautioned two Indian players and one Emirates player in the second half as the game got more tense and physical.

Saudi Arabia, fast and dominant in midfield, enhanced their hopes of a semifinal berth by beating Syria 1-0 after a closely-fought Group 'A' match.

The Saudi Arabians, who drew 1-1 with fancied South Korea last Sunday, were faster to adapt to the slippery pitch and, after a goalless first half, scored the winning goal in the 71st minute through midfielder Saleh Al-Dossari.

Striker Majed Mohammad, springing down the right flank, hit a powerful shot from outside the penalty area which was blocked by two Syrian defenders. Saleh pounced on the loose ball and sent a 15-metre shot past goalkeeper Malek Shakkouhi.

Saudi Arabia had launched a powerful attack in the 10th minute when unmarked striker Mohaisen Al-Dosari cracked in a powerful low shot which forced Shakkouhi to make a sprawling save.

The bigger Syrians, who earlier held Qatar 1-1, were denied a goal in the 56th minute when striker Marwan Madarati, springing through unchallenged from midfield, was brought down with a rugby tackle by defender Sameer Abdul Shakor ten metres outside the penalty area.

Sameer's foul earned him the only yellow card from Japanese referee Takada.

Standings							
Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Kuwait	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
South Korea	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Qatar	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Syria	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Singapore	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
United Arab Emirates	1	1	0	1	2	3	2
China	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
India	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Mennea quits athletics

ROME (R) — Italian sprinter Pietro Mennea, holder of the world 200 metres record, announced his retirement from competitive sport Tuesday saying drug-taking by some other athletes was one reason for his move.

It is the second time that Mennea, 32, the 1980 Olympic 200 metres champion, has quit athletics. He told a news conference that this time it was for good.

Mennea previously retired in March 1981 before making a comeback in August 1982. He competed in the Los Angeles

Olympics this year, finishing seventh in the 200 metres final won by American Carl Lewis.

The Italian sprinter set his 200 metres world record of 19.72 seconds in the high altitude of Mexico City at the World Student Games on September 12, 1979.

Mennea, who started competing in 1967, said this was a "different goodbye" from his previous retirement. "At that time I was fresh from my Olympic success. I was sated with so many results. Then the will to win again came back to me."

The show is a joint effort of the Mexican government and the World Boxing Council (WBC), with all proceeds going into a newly created emergency relief fund, according to promoter Don King.

WBC President Jose Sulaiman said: "This is the WBC's first participation in a promotion of this type. We are the organisers. The Mexican government will handle the finances. To my knowledge this is the first charity event in which the charity gets 100 per cent of the proceeds."

Sulaiman added that Don King has donated his promotional services and would pay the expenses of world lightweight champion Jose Luis Ramirez, superbantamweight champion Juan "Kid" Meza, and Julio Cesar Chavez, the superfeatherweight champion, in addition to those of Hector Camacho, the former superbantamweight champion.

Three top-ranked WBC contenders — featherweight Marcos Villaseca, flyweight Gabriel Bernal and light-flyweight German Torres — also will be on the card.

Beckenbauer drops Magath from World Cup squad

BONN (R) — West German team manager Franz Beckenbauer Tuesday dropped Hamburg midfielder Felix Magath from his soccer squad for the World Cup European Group Two qualifying game against Malta on December 16.

Magath, 31, has been troubled by a thigh injury but expects to be fit for Hamburg's UEFA Cup third round second leg game with Inter Milan on December 12.

But Beckenbauer, who has always maintained he is building his new-look team around Magath despite the Hamburg player's indifferent international performance, said the uncertainty meant he felt forced to rule out his midfielder Schuster.

Another surprise in the 20-man squad is the inclusion of a man Beckenbauer has never seen play — Bayer Uerdingen defender Karl-Heinz Wöhrlein, who only made his first division debut this season at the age of 27.

A surprised Wöhrlein, who was recommended by Beckenbauer's assistant Horst Koepfel, said he would have to put off his planned wedding on Dec. 15 if included in the final 16 to travel to Malta.

Boxing champions to fight for charity in Mexico

NEW YORK (R) — Three current WBC champions, one former champion and three top contenders will appear on a boxing charity show on January 1 in El Toro, Mexico's oldest bull ring, to help raise money for the victims of last week's devastating gas explosion.

The show is a joint effort of the Mexican government and the World Boxing Council (WBC), with all proceeds going into a newly created emergency relief fund, according to promoter Don King.

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Three top-ranked WBC contenders — featherweight Marcos Villaseca, flyweight Gabriel Bernal and light-flyweight German Torres — also will be on the card.

Page's handlers, who were timing each round themselves, screamed at official timekeeper Blackie Swart and his helper that the round was over. Reporters at ringside, also clocking the rounds, joined in to no avail. Swart denies

At the end of the sixth, the brawl went beyond the bell with Page landing three nasty right hands, the last of which dropped Coetzee to his knees.

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Lendl struggles against Curren

MELBOURNE (R) — South African Kevin Curren was poised to pull off one of the biggest upsets of the season when rain brought play to a halt at the Australian Open Tennis Championships Tuesday.

The number nine seed, who has a habit of keeping his best form for major tournaments, was one set up and about to serve for a 3-1 lead in the second against Ivan Lendl when the players were forced off the centre court.

Only two matches were played to a finish before the rain settled in over the day.

West German Boris Becker beat Guy Forget of France 7-6, 6-4, 6-3 in an entertaining fourth-round clash between two of Europe's most outstanding teenagers, while Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova upset the seedings list with a 6-2, 6-7, 6-1 win over Pam Shriver of the United States.

Lendl, winner of the French Open earlier this year and hot favourite here due to the absence of John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, must have been delighted with the change in the weather because his hopes of reaching the quarter-finals looked wafer-thin at the time.

He reached the third round at Wimbledon this year before he was forced to pull out after tearing ligaments in his right ankle.

The West German admitted grass was already his favourite surface but said he was surprised at the ease of his win over Forget.

Shriver, although initially disappointed at her defeat by ninth-seeded Sukova, confessed she felt relieved afterwards and will now take a long break from the game.

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Curren is probably best remembered for his four-set win over Jimmy Connors at Wimbledon in 1983 when he blasted 33 aces past the bewildered American on his way to the semifinals.

The South African had not beaten Lendl in six previous attempts, but he ripped through the first set 6-1 in just 19 minutes with the help of two service breaks in the fourth and sixth games.

As if to emphasise his superiority on the day, Curren broke Lendl's serve again in the opening game of the second set with a running forehand down the line.

Becker, who turned 17 last month, was playing on grass for only the 10th time.

He reached the third round at Wimbledon this year before he was forced to pull out after tearing ligaments in his right ankle.

The West German admitted grass was already his favourite surface but said he was surprised at the ease of his win over Forget.

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Soccer federations to fight European labour plans

BRUSSELS (R) — Angry soccer federation leaders from all over Europe came to Brussels on Tuesday to fight common market plans to enforce labour laws which they say could prove disastrous for the future of the game.

The community's Brussels-based commission is insisting national federations drop their restrictions on the number of Common Market players allowed to play in their leagues.

According to the commission, professional soccer players, like any other workers, should be free to move where they like in the European Community, and that means the so-called "nationality clauses" must go.

But the soccer federations say outlawing the restrictions could spell disaster for European soccer — the best players would all be attracted to the countries with the richest clubs and the supply of talent to national teams would be interrupted.

With top players like Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of West Germany, Argentine Diego Maradona and Dane Jesper Olsen all playing abroad, the federations accept the days of purely local teams are long past.

But for federations and players alike, the commission's plan seems like unnecessary interference in the national set-ups, which they say provide a balance between some freedom of movement and complete foreign domination.

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ination. "It could be very damaging to the structure and the future of the game," English Football League Secretary Graham Kelly said in a recent interview.

Both sides agreed at a first meeting in 1978 gradually to phase out the "nationality clauses". But, as European commissioner Ivor Richard told the European parliament earlier this year, progress has been slow.

Commission officials stress they would rather talk to the federations about a mutually acceptable way of getting rid of the clauses than press ahead with their right to challenge their legality in the European court in Luxembourg.

But, ultimately, according to Richard, the rules will have to go, allowing players from all 10 countries to move at will round the bloc. "The position under common law is quite clear," he said.

At present, the rule in most community countries is that no side may field more than two foreign players at a time. In Italy, there is an added limit on the number of foreigners allowed to sign for a club, according to one commission official. "To protect the rich Italian clubs from themselves."

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British firms show success

LONDON (R) — British Airways (B.A.), due to follow British Telecom into private hands early next year, Monday announced a sharp rise in its half-yearly profits.

The state-owned airline's pre-tax earnings rose 26 per cent to £189 million (\$225 million) on turnover up 12 per cent to £1.57 billion (\$1.87 billion) in the six months of Sept. 30.

The company made £150 million (now \$179 million) on turnover of £1.4 billion (\$1.67 billion) in the comparable 1983 period.

The result was encouraging for the British government, which has promised to sell B.A. as part of its policy of reducing state involvement in large national enterprises.

B.A. chairman Lord King said the privatisation would go ahead in March. The company is expected to be valued at more than £1 billion (\$1.19 billion), but it has not yet been decided whether all or only part of it will go on sale.

Monday's figures reflected an 11.4 per cent rise in passengers, with the stronger dollar boosting the number of American tourists coming to Britain.

B.A. is Britain's biggest airline, with 81 per cent of the British international market.

A sharp improvement in B.A.'s fortunes in recent years has followed a large-scale programme of cost-cutting and enabled the company to cut its loan commitments.

Loan repayments in the six months to Sept. 30 totalled £204 million (\$242 million), although sterling's fall against the U.S. currency raised the value of B.A.'s dollar loans by £73 million (\$86 million).

"Further substantial progress in reducing our debts continues," Lord King told reporters.

Total bank borrowing fell to £770 million (\$916 million) from £901 million (\$1 billion).

Price doubles for British Telecom

Meanwhile shares in British Telecom, the state telephone company, nearly doubled in price when trading opened Monday following the world's biggest share issue, enabling some investors to reap instant profits.

The partly-paid 50 pence (59 cents) shares were buoyed by enormous demand but few sellers and opened at 95 pence (\$1.14) on the London stock exchange.

The £3.9 billion (\$4.64 billion) sale, more than four times oversubscribed, was billed by the Conservative government as a runaway success.

But opposition Labour Party politicians who had opposed the sale, the biggest so far in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatisation programme, alleged that the government had sold off British Telecom too cheaply.

"It is incredible that the government will try to present the sale of a major British asset as a knock-down price as a success," said Mr. Alan Williams, a party industry spokesman.

Mr. Bryan Gould, a Labour Party trade spokesman, said the size of the oversubscription proved that the government had misjudged the price "at a considerable cost to the taxpayer."

Brokers said larger investors, many of them excluded from the public offer, were pushing up the price sharply.

The government last month put 3.01 billion shares, just over half the ordinary capital, on the market and launched a sales campaign in line with its policy of broadening share ownership.

Mr. Kelvin Benson, the bank underwriting the offer, said applications had been scaled down to match demand and those seeking more than 100,000 shares had been rejected.

With a maximum holding reduced to 800 shares, the government can argue that no-one will be able to make a substantial killing and Telecom will have the widest possible body of shareholders.

It estimates there will be 2.3 million shareholders, eight times as many as in any other British company, despite a Labour pledge to renationalise Telecom at the sale price.

"It was a mouth-watering first taste of the stock exchange for the many who were buying shares for the first time," commented one stockbroker.

The government sold almost half the shares to financial institutions in mid-November when the outcome of the sale was less certain.

It sold about a third to the public in London and most of the rest in New York, Tokyo and Toronto, where the low value of the pound sterling makes them look attractive.

Trading breaks record in N.Y.

In New York trading in British Telecom shares set a record volume on the New York stock exchange Monday, with the price about 84 per cent above the partly-paid initial offer price.

The British government's sale of Telecom stock to private investors brought intense interest in the United States where 16.35 million shares changed hands in the first day's dealing.

On the New York stock exchange, volume was 12.5 million shares, compared with the exchange's previous daily record of 11.5 million shares, set by Superior Oil Company last June.

U.S. dealings are conducted in American depository receipts — equivalent to 10 shares each — for which the partly-paid initial offer price was \$5.96.

Trading began at \$11 and prices moved in a narrow range during the day.

The premium on the U.S. certificates was slightly less than the 86 per cent mark-up on shares traded in London.

Lebanese pound retreats

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound Tuesday fell to its lowest level for about a month in hectic trading amid heavy demand for dollars sparked by a market scepticism over a new security plan, dealers said.

The pound traded as low as 8.33 to the dollar, before recovering slightly on profit-taking to close official dealings at 8.19/21. It had opened Tuesday at 8.08/16 compared with Monday's 8.15/17 close and 7.92/94 last Saturday.

Dealers said the pound's renewed weakness was partly related to the dollar's strength against most major currencies. But they noted that the fall continued Tuesday despite the fact that U.S. currency had slipped back from Monday's high against currencies such as the German mark.

"The pound's drop shows the market is not ready to put trust in the security plan," said one dealer, referring to government plans to deploy the army south of Beirut from Thursday.

He said that after sectarian fighting in the Kharroub region north of Beirut's defence line in southern Lebanon over the past few days, the market came to the view that the plan seemed difficult to negotiate.

Military sources Monday said plans to send troops to the Kharroub could be delayed.

Aviation conference criticises air 'giants'

KARACHI (R) — South Asia's first regional conference on aviation Tuesday accused major airlines of monopolising the world's air routes.

"They do this without consideration of the repercussions on smaller airlines," Mr. Wizar Azim, managing director of the state-run Pakistan International Airlines said at the opening of the three-day conference.

Aviation sources said the conference was likely to adopt a regional aviation policy to protect the airlines' interests.

Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are attending while Bhutan is absent.

"The giants... are increasingly in a position, partly due to their size and economic well-being and partly due to their cooperative agreements, to monopolise the world's air routes," Mr. Azim said.

The comparatively smaller airlines were struggling to survive against the competitive threats imposed by large airlines from wealthy market regions, he added.

Mr. Azim said the advantages of cheap labour were wiped out by increase of cost of new equipment resulting in a "financial squeeze year after year."

European Community chiefs break deadlock over Iberian entry terms

DUBLIN (R) — The European Community (EC) Tuesday broke a deadlock over entry conditions for Spain and Portugal and found a formula to ensure that the two Iberian nations will join the Common Market by a target date of Jan. 1, 1986.

In a draft communique to be issued after a two-day Dublin summit, leaders of the 10-nation group stressed their "firm political commitment" to the agreed date for accession.

The summit leaders, in a major breakthrough, also agreed on ways of curbing the bloc's massive wine surpluses before a possible flood of extra wine when Spain joins — a key issue which had so far blocked the enlargement negotiations.

Diplomats said Tuesday's deal was crucial for Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez before next week's vote at a congress of his Socialist Party over whether Spain should remain in NATO, an issue directly linked to Common Market membership.

The ten have still to finalise their negotiating position on several issues before the talks are resumed with the Spanish and Portuguese in Brussels later this month. But diplomats said agreement should be relatively easy after Tuesday's deal.

The negotiations should be completed by the end of this year allowing enough time for ratification by parliaments and other legal procedures preceding entry.

Tuesday's agreement was seen

by many officials and diplomats as a major triumph for Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, who carried out extensive contacts with the major wine-producing nations ahead of the summit.

"The community has substantially cleared the way for a common position for negotiating the entry of Spain and Portugal," a senior British official said.

The deal on wine would force vineyards to distill excess production into cheap industrial alcohol in order to reduce a wine surplus that could provide every man, woman and child in the ten-nation bloc with a bottle of wine a day from now until Christmas.

It also provides for generous subsidies to encourage wine growers to pull out their vines and switch to other cultivation.

Officials said one hitch was Greece's refusal to endorse the wine deal unless the bloc agrees to

a scheme of aid for its poorer Mediterranean regions.

Meanwhile, the EC Tuesday pledged 1.2 million tonnes of grain to Africa next year to help relieve the plight of famine-hit countries, an Irish spokesman said.

The pledge represented 60 per cent on the estimated two million tonnes of food aid needed for Africa in 1985.

The spokesman said other countries would be encouraged to make up the balance.

The 10-nation community had already provided for 500,000 tonnes of food aid next year but the Dublin summit agreed Tuesday to give an extra 700,000 tonnes.

Grain traders said the total aid package would be worth at least \$150 million at current prices.

More aid pledged.

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UAE to act on economic difficulties

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tuesday ordered the formation of a high-powered committee composed of cabinet ministers and members of parliament to propose "scientific and practical" steps to deal with

the economic difficulties caused by falling oil revenues.

The UAE president urged the committee to prepare a "comprehensive economic plan aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the citizens for continued progress and prosperity."

He said the committee would

report to the supreme council.

Sheikh Zayed underlined the importance of implementing the six-month old decision that the seven emirates should contribute 50 per cent of their revenues to the deficit-ridden federal budget.

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G.E., Pratt win big Pentagon job

WASHINGTON (R) — General Electric (G.E.) and Pratt & Whitney have been awarded contracts to build 247 F-15 and F-16 fighter engines worth a total of \$821.3 million.

The contract to General Electric, Evendale, Ohio, for 5563.6 million was for 136 engines for the air force and another 35 for aircraft being bought by Israel.

The contract to Pratt, a unit of United Technologies, West Palm Beach, Florida, was for \$257.7 million for 41 engines for the air force and 45 for planes for Egypt.

Previously, all F-15 and F-16 engines were made by Pratt, but last year the Pentagon opened competition to build an advanced fighter engine, and invited General Electric to bid.

On the basis of the bids, the air force broke down its 1985 purchase of the advanced engines to roughly 75 per cent to General Electric and 25 per cent to Pratt.

Le Monde journalists reject director's plan

PARIS (R) — Le Monde, France's most respected but loss-making newspaper, was plunged into the worst crisis of its 40-year existence Tuesday after its journalists rejected the director's plan to sell its building.

The journalists, who own 40 per cent of the newspaper's shares, Monday night voted by a large majority against the sale option proposed by Director Andre Laurens, who has hinted he would resign or file for bankruptcy if he was voted down.

Selling the building was the cornerstone of Mr. Laurens' drastic reform plan, which also included a 14 per cent salary cut for most staff and closing a Paris area printing press.

The evening paper, hit by the economic crisis, lower advertising revenue and a slow but steady drop in circulation, has lost money in the past three years.

Its deficit now totals about 80 million francs (\$8.4 million). Had the building's sale been approved, it was expected to bring in 75-100 million francs (\$7.9 — \$10.5 million).

Monday night's poll is largely seen as a vote of non-confidence in Mr. Laurens, who, under Le Monde's collective ownership system, was elected director in 1982.

Mr. Laurens refused to comment on the poll Tuesday, as journalists were meeting to review the situation.

Monday night the editorial staff also voted against Mr. Laurens' proposal to set up a facsimile printing of the paper in the provinces, where Le Monde arrives in the following morning.

They said in a motion that such a measure could be implemented only after major changes in the editorial content of the paper had been carried out.

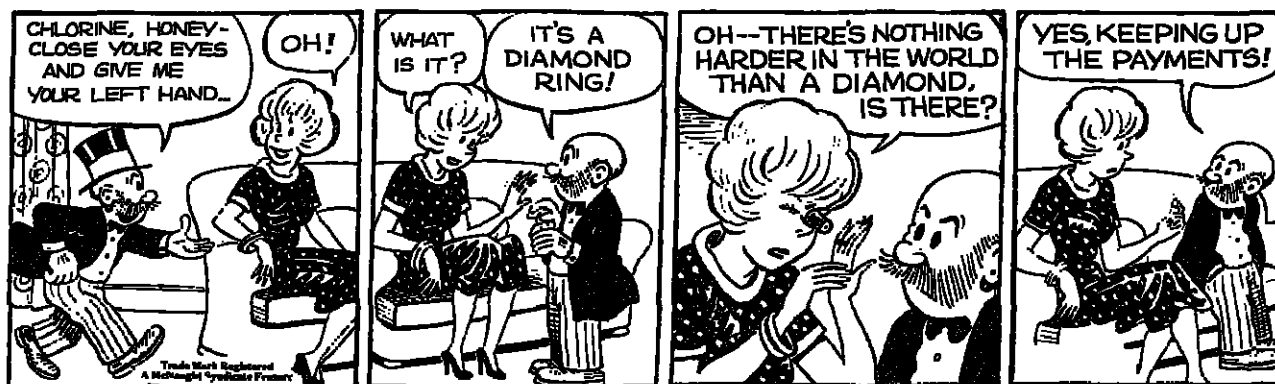
Another staff motion welcomed the hiring of a new manager, a move strictly opposed by Mr. Laurens.



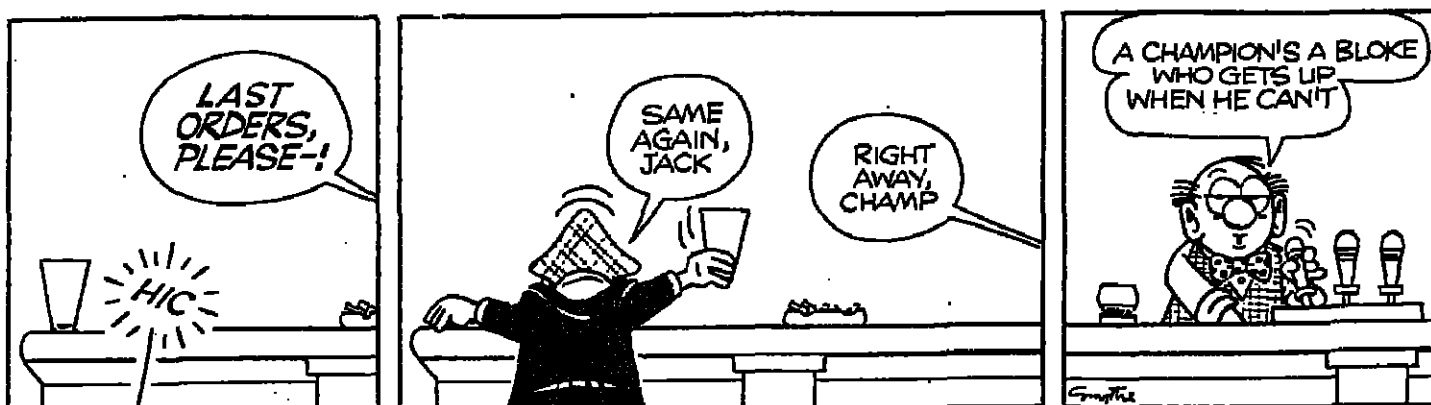
Peanuts



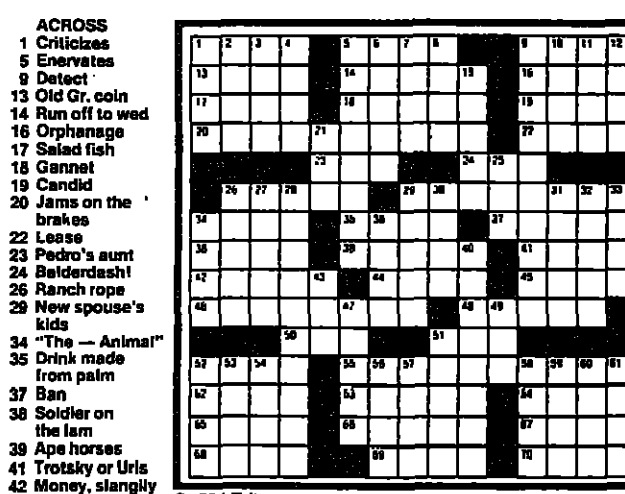
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Sidney L. Robbins



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Soviets condemn NATO plan as preparation for war

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet daily Pravda has branded NATO's "Rogers Plan" for deep strikes into Eastern Europe as a preparation for war and says it shows that the Western allies would launch the first attack.

The Communist Party daily said Tuesday the new strategy, which was formally adopted by NATO last month, meant the alliance was gearing up for pre-emptive strikes on the Communist Warsaw Pact with conventional and nuclear arms.

"The plan ... serves the preparation of war with an eye to victory," Pravda said.

"It signifies a big tilt in NATO strategy towards aggressiveness, since the existing first-nuclear-strike concept still holds and is being supplemented with the new concept of pre-emptive non-nuclear strikes."

The plan, named after supreme

allied commander Gen. Bernard Rogers, envisages using new high-technology conventional weapons to launch attacks deep inside Eastern Europe in the event of a Warsaw Pact attack on the West.

Pravda said the strategy meant that NATO was hoping to knock out Eastern Europe's armed forces and missiles with a first strike and "avoid retaliation by depriving the other side of a second-strike capability."

Pravda said the Rogers Plan would inevitably increase confrontation in Europe and raise tensions there.

The doctrine was particularly

dangerous because new high-technology weapons were enormously destructive and would cause damage in highly-populated areas comparable with the use of nuclear weapons.

Pravda also warned the Western allies that they were underestimating the Soviet Union if they thought it would allow them to achieve military superiority through the new strategy.

The Warsaw Pact had no intention of attacking anyone, but would do everything necessary to maintain its defences at the same level as the West's.

The Rogers Plan has come under fire from some Western military analysts who believe it will divert scarce funds towards expensive and unproved weapons.

The critics also say the plan is outdated as it is intended to combat a massed attack by Warsaw Pact forces when there are indi-

cations that the Communist alliance has changed to more flexible tactics.

NATO defence ministers were Tuesday expected to conclude agreements on improving the 'basics' of conventional defence in an effort to lessen the Atlantic alliance's dependence on the early use of nuclear weapons.

The moves to upgrade military ground facilities and raise ammunition stocks have been lent new urgency by the prospect that the newly-elected U.S. Congress may otherwise legislate to pull some of the 326,000 American troops out of Europe.

A move by Senator Sam Nunn threatening troop cuts unless the European allies did more for their own non-nuclear defence was narrowly defeated last June. NATO officials hope this week's meeting will show that the allies are acting on Sen. Nunn's concerns.

Warsaw Pact foreign ministers resume talks

EAST BERLIN (R) — Warsaw Pact foreign ministers Tuesday began a final day of talks expected to lay guidelines for future arms control consultations between Moscow and Washington.

The meeting of the seven ministers is part of a flurry of discussions in the Soviet Bloc and NATO alliance before January's talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Warsaw Pact Defence Ministers also began talks in Budapest Monday, while NATO officials were holding high-level consultations on arms control policy in Brussels.

Western diplomats said Mr. Gromyko probably briefed East German, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian colleagues Monday on his plans for the Shultz meeting. No details of the talks were published.

But a communique expected Wednesday could offer guidelines

to Moscow's thinking after a period of stalemate between the superpowers.

Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and President Reagan have expressed an interest in board-based talks, encompassing several areas of arms control.

East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer was quoted by the official ADN news agency as reaffirming Warsaw Pact interest in an agreement on "the entire complex of nuclear and space weapons" at a banquet Monday night.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda repeated Soviet calls for a freeze on space weapon development Monday but warned it would match any U.S. advances.

Articles in the Soviet press suggest Moscow intends no dramatic concessions despite Mr. Chernenko's apparent back-down in agreeing to return to talks despite deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Britain, West Germany and Italy.

Death toll rises to 500 in Indian gas leak disaster

BHOPAL, India (R) — The death toll from a poison gas leak at a pesticide factory here rose to at least 500 Tuesday, police reported.

A police spokesman told Reuters the toll was expected to be higher because rescue workers were still recovering bodies.

Badly gassed victims, mainly young children and elderly people, were still dying in hospitals, he said.

When the cloud of methyl isocyanate gas spread from the factory shortly after midnight Monday, employees at the nearby railway station were among the first affected.

About 25 porters and other railway workers were among the dead, and 250 travellers waiting for early morning trains were made unconscious.

Police have arrested six senior employees of the factory and charged them with causing death by negligence.

The Times of India newspaper said Tuesday doctors on duty at the town's two main hospitals when the first rush of victims arrived were also overcome by fumes.

About 4,000 people were badly gassed and a total of more than 10,000 people were treated at hospitals.

Off duty doctors, paramedical workers and final year medical students from the town's university were called in to help.

Police rushed to chemist shops to get drugs as the hospitals ran out of supplies.

Hospital mortuaries were littered with dead corpses and on laws outside it was difficult to tell the dead from survivors, eyewitnesses said.

"Scores of children brought to hospital by hapless parents who did not realise they were dead, were sent back for cremation without post mortem examination," the Times of India reported.

The Indian Express newspaper said that by Monday night the town's crematoriums had run out of wood to burn the dead in traditional Hindu rites.

Police estimated about 200,000 people, about one-quarter of the town's population, inhaled fumes. The factory is owned by the Indian subsidiary of the U.S. Union Carbide Company and produces pesticides for agriculture.

U.S. reportedly made germ warfare tests in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Travellers at Washington's busy National Airport were sprayed with bacteria in the 1960s without their knowledge as part of a U.S. army germ warfare experiment, the Church of Scientology said Tuesday.

Although the bacteria, bacillus subtilis, was considered by the army at the time to be harmless, it has since been found to cause symptoms of respiratory infections, blood poisoning and food poisoning, it said.

It had been known for some time that the army had conducted similar tests on people in other cities in the 1950s and 1960s, including travellers on the New York subway system, but this was the first time tests in the U.S. capital had been disclosed, the church said.

It said it had uncovered details

of tests in 1964 and 1965 at five sites in Washington, including the airport and a bus terminus, in declassified army documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

There was no immediate comment from the army.

According to copies of the documents circulated by the church, undercover agents used specially-designed suitcases to spray the bacteria on passengers in an attempt to determine how smallpox could be spread through the United States in event of a germ war.

Church spokeswoman Sylvia Stanard said the documents were being distributed on Capitol Hill as part of a campaign against a Pentagon plan to construct a biological warfare test laboratory in Utah.

Pro-U.S. party wins in Grenada polls

G. GEORGES, Grenada (R) — Grenada's pro-U.S. New National Party (NNP) won a landslide victory in elections to return the Caribbean island to democracy, electoral officials said Tuesday.

They said the NNP of Herbert Blaize had so far won 10 of the 15 seats at stake and estimated that more than 80 per cent of the island's 48,000 voters had turned out Monday.

The new government will replace an interim administration installed by a U.S.-led invasion which ousted a radical Marxist regime in October last year.

The electoral officials said the NNP had inflicted crushing def-

beats on the right-wing Grenada United Labour Party, led by Sir Eric Gairy, and the leftist Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

The MBPM is named after former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who was killed during a coup six days before the invasion. Nicholas Braithwaite, chairman of the interim civilian government which has supervised the island's return to democracy, said he was satisfied and relieved at the way the election had been conducted.

Police said no incidents had been reported during the voting which closed at 5 p.m. (2100 GMT).

Mr. Blaize, 66, is regarded as a moderate conservative and has promised to run an honest administration.

A former chief minister under British colonial rule which ended in 1974, he has been backed by U.S. officials and Caribbean leaders who want to prevent a comeback by Sir Eric, whose GULP ruled the island from 1967 and won the last elections in 1976.

Sir Eric, renowned for lecturing the United Nations on God and flying saucers, was accused of corruption and repression during his term in office.

French envoy in New Caledonia for talks

NOUMEA (R) — French special envoy Edgar Pisani arrived in France's Pacific island territory of New Caledonia Tuesday on a mission to resolve a bitter independence campaign mounted by militant Kanaks.

The French Socialist government has given Mr. Pisani two months to come up with a formula to solve the crisis.

Mr. Pisani, a commissioner to the European Community, told reporters: "We have a lot of things to talk about."

Independence-seeking Kanaks — indigenous Melanesians — have brought chaos to much of the territory in the past two weeks.

A Kanak and a French settler

were killed last week when shooting broke out at one of the roadblocks the militants have erected throughout the island. A French journalist and his companion were shot and wounded at a barricade Monday.

Last Saturday the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front raised a flag of independence in a village near the capital and swore in a provisional government.

The rugged north of the island, which lies 1,500 kilometres east of Australia, is virtually cut off and white women and children have been evacuated from the area.

Trouble began during elections on Nov. 18 for a new assembly designed to give the territory gre-

ater autonomy before a referendum on independence in 1989.

The militant Kanaks say they would lose the poll because after heavy immigration by French and other Pacific Islanders they comprise only 43 per cent of the 145,000 population.

One of Mr. Pisani's tasks will be to talk to representatives of the settlers — some of them from France's former possessions of Algeria, Indochina and Vanuatu — as well as Kanaks, not all of whom want independence.

He will attempt to come up with a voting formula in a referendum which will satisfy all sides.

Pakistani opposition seeks Islamic support

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's banned opposition parties are trying to forge a broad front with Islamic parties to oppose a referendum on President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's Islamisation policies, opposition sources said Tuesday.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which groups 11 mostly secular parties united against Gen. Zia, has already called on people to boycott the Dec. 19 vote.

MRD sources said its leaders were meeting the key Islamic party, Jamaat-ul-Islami, to discuss common ground for a boycott.

An Islamic front against the referendum would be a blow for Gen. Zia, who has appealed to Muslim clergy to preach in his favour.

The poll will ask voters if they support Gen. Zia's efforts to form an Islamic state in Pakistan and if they want power to be transferred peacefully to an elected assembly.

A 'yes' vote will automatically

make Gen. Zia, who seized power in 1977, an 'elected' president for the next five years, but he will still stay in power even if the voters say 'no'.

The MRD says the referendum as rigged because most Pakistanis would think a 'no' vote would be against Islam and feel obliged to vote 'yes'.

Two Islamic parties, Jamaat-ul-Ulema Islam and Jamaat-ul-Ulema Pakistan, have already come out against the referendum, saying it is ruse to keep Gen. Zia in power.

Jamaat, a tightly-organised party which has advised the military government on Islamic matters, has been critical of Gen. Zia since he banned student unions early this year.

Its leaders met for a second day at party headquarters in Lahore Tuesday to consider the boycott.

MRD sources said its head, Mian Tufail Muhammad, met Nawabzada Nasrullah Khana, a

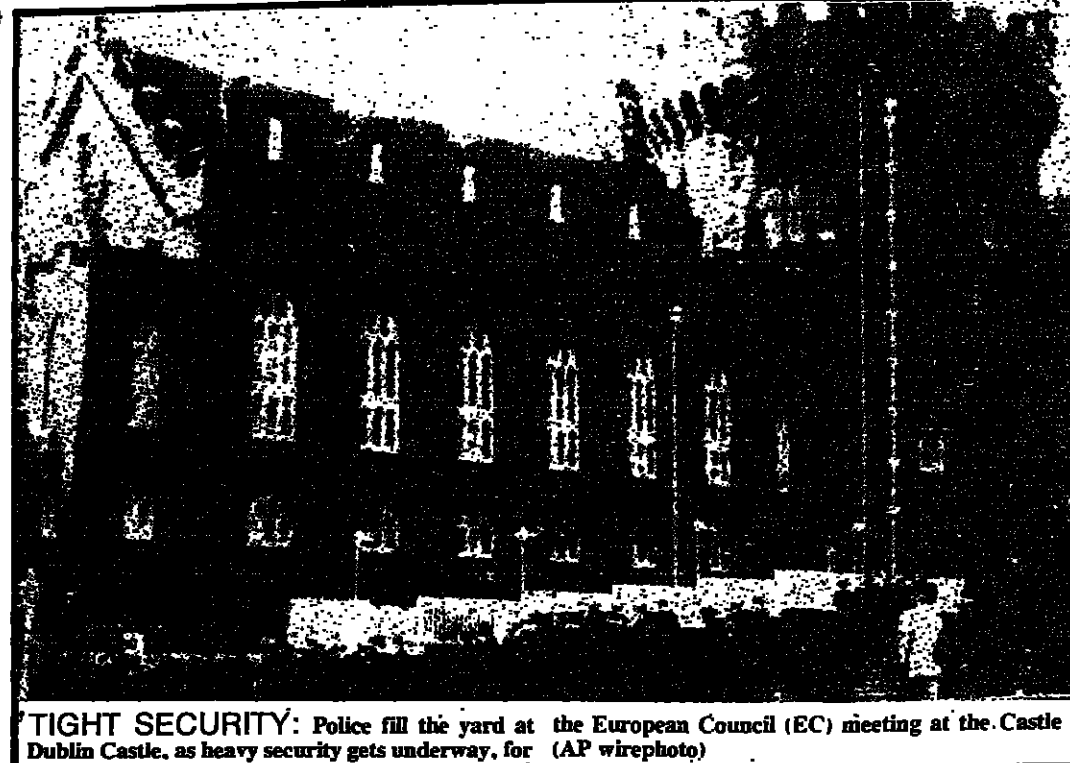
prominent figure in the movement, Monday.

The sources added that if Jamaat joined the boycott the only major party supporting the referendum would be a faction of the small Muslim League Party led by Pir Pagaro, a longtime Zia supporter.

In Karachi, MRD sources said member parties there Tuesday began distributing pamphlets urging people to boycott the referendum or vote 'no'.

They said couriers were putting them into letter boxes or sending them by post to addresses picked at random from telephone books. Similar mailing campaigns should start soon in other cities, they said.

The military government has banned newspapers from printing any comments against the referendum and said reporters could be violating martial law if they attended opposition news conferences.



TIGHT SECURITY: Police fill the yard at the European Council (EC) meeting at the Castle Dublin Castle, as heavy security gets underway, for (AP wirephoto)

Democrats reelect 'Tip' O'Neill as House speaker

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats again chose Thomas "Tip" O'Neill of Massachusetts as speaker of the House of Representatives after a conservative Texan decided not to challenge him.

House Republicans picked Robert Michel of Illinois as their leader for the new Congress starting on Jan. 3. Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Michel will be elected formally next month.

Mr. O'Neill, a liberal pictured by Republicans as a symbol of big-spending Democrats, will be 72 on Sunday. He plans to quit Congress in two years.

Texas Democrat Charles Stenholm told a news conference he pulled out of the race after getting Mr. O'Neill's promise that conservatives will have a bigger say in party affairs.

Under the U.S. constitution, Mr. O'Neill is next in line of succession to the presidency after Vice President George Bush.

Democrats have 253 seats and President Reagan's Republicans 182 in the 435-member House. But the republicans control the Senate, where they have 53 seats to the Democrats' 47.

Colombo says Tamil rebels killing civilians

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka are killing civilians, the government charged Tuesday.

"We have definite information that the terrorists are killing civilians. That is why people are leaving several areas in the north," government spokesman Wickrema Weerasooria told a news briefing.

The spokesman said the killings appeared to be the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. He said there was other information but he had been asked not to disclose it because of on-going security operations.

"They are killing not only Sinhalese civilians but also Tamils. They are seeking international media attention for allegations that the security forces are killing Tamils," Mr. Weerasooria added.

The attacks on civilians began Friday with raids on two prisoner rehabilitation settlements in the Vavuniya and Mullaitivu districts in north Sri Lanka. The government has said at least 148 died in those attacks.

On Saturday, fishermen belonging to the majority Sinhalese community living in the Tamil-dominated district of Mullaitivu in the northeast were attacked by separatists, who killed 11.

Mr. Weerasooria said about 2,000 refugees have left the farms and the surrounding areas, fearing further attacks. They are being cared for in two hurriedly set up facilities in two schools in the north central province.

The Sri Lankan government clamped an 18-hour curfew on a

district near Colombo Tuesday to prevent ethnic violence when victims of guerrilla attacks arrived there with their dead.

Police in Negombo, 40 kilometres from Colombo, said tension mounted as a convoy of buses brought 250 refugees and four corpses, victims of last Saturday's guerrilla raids.

Negombo was one of the worst affected areas when ethnic violence erupted in July last year after 13 Sinhalese soldiers were killed by guerrillas. About 400 people, mainly Tamils, died throughout the country in the rioting.

Fisheries Minister Festus Perera visited the district Tuesday, and appealed to the victims and other Sinhalese there to remain calm.

He told his ministry to pay the funeral expenses of those killed and to arrange to house the 250 refugees in schools.

Anuradhapura, the capital of the north central province, was put under a 13-hour curfew Tuesday as unrest mounted after some Sinhalese farmers attacked by guerrillas last Friday were sent there for treatment.

Reuters correspondent Robert Mahoney reported from Anuradhapura that he saw corpses, hands still tied, at the hospital together with the bodies of several children reported to have been beaten to death.

"I have seen four children, who had been taken by the feet and dashed against a wall or tree," Mahoney was told by Sugathapala, an assistant at the autopsy.

Afghan guerrilla rockets hit presidential palace

ISLAMABAD (R) — Rockets fired by Afghan rebels hit the presidential palace compound in the heart of Kabul but another attack missed the capital's only luxury hotel, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

One rocket landed on or around the walled palace on Nov. 26 and witnesses said they heard cries and saw two ambulances arriving, the diplomats told journalists.

Several more rockets were fired at but missed the Hilton Intercontinental Hotel, where 80 delegates from 41 countries were attending an Afro-Asian peace and solidarity organisation conference.

The diplomats, who asked not to be identified, said two more rockets landed in an Afghan army compound near the West German Cultural Centre.

Muslim guerrillas, armed with what rebel sources say are 107-mm Chinese-made rockets, have been making surprise attacks on Kabul targets since late summer, forcing Afghan and Soviet authorities to boost security.

The diplomats, quoting reports from Kabul, said the Soviet embassy there recently built new blockades to keep cars from speeding onto its compound.

British parliament poised to ratify Hong Kong deal

LONDON (R) — The British parliament is poised to set a final seal of approval on a deal for the handover of Hong Kong, Britain's last major colony, to China in 1997.

The House of Commons (lower house), which debates and votes on the draft deal with Peking Wednesday, and the House of Lords (upper house), which votes on Monday, have a right of veto.

But the draft, initiated in Peking in September, has won general approval both in Britain and Hong Kong as the best possible deal in the circumstances.

When the Commons debated it in October, lawmakers from all parties hailed it as a diplomatic triumph and British officials expect it to have a smooth passage through both houses.

Britain and China began negotiations two years ago on the future of Hong Kong after 1997 when a lease on most of the staunchly-Capitalist enclave expires.

The talks, held in secret, proved thorny at times.

But in the end China undertook to maintain the way of life and freedoms of the colony's 5.3 million people for at least 50 years after the handover.

Hong Kong will become a special administrative region, with a

high degree of autonomy, an elected legislature and its own legal and judicial system.

A British government monitoring team set up to test the views of the Hong Kong people reported last month that most found the deal acceptable, despite some reservations.

A delegation from Hong Kong's executive and legislative councils arrived in Britain at the weekend to remind the government and lawmakers of such reservations.

These include eligibility for conscription into the Chinese army, the stationing of Chinese troops in Hong Kong and the precise nature of the basic law which will govern the colony.

But British officials say Britain will take account of these concerns during continuing consultations with Peking throughout the transition period on the final shape of life in Hong Kong.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will sign the agreement in Peking on Dec. 19, if, as expected, parliament approves it.

The deal is a second major diplomatic triumph for her Conservative government. In 1979, soon after she won power, it negotiated an independence settlement for Zimbabwe.

China builds first 'Islamic' hotel

PEKING (AP) — China's first "Islamic" hotel is nearing completion and hotel employees are studying Arabic and "Islamic style of service" to prepare for the opening, the official Xinhua News Service said Monday. The 300-bed hotel in Yinchuan, capital of the Ningxia Hui autonomous region in north west China, features Islamic architecture and is being financed by Chinese Muslims. Xinhua said. An opening date was not announced. Xinhua said the hotel is one of many Islam-oriented projects in Yinchuan, where a third of the urban population is ethnic Hui, a minority that practices Islam.

Brazilians kill 5 convicted criminals

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — About 500 Brazilians Monday dragged five convicted criminals from a police van and beat them to death with clubs and rocks, police said. Police said the incident occurred in the town of Itaboraí, 760 kilometres north of Rio de Janeiro. They said the prisoners had been convicted of killing a policeman during an armed robbery in the town.

'U.K. scientists poisoning animals'

LONDON (R) — The British government said Monday its scientists subject animals to cyanide poisoning without anaesthetics for purposes of research. The disclosure brought an immediate outcry from Britain's active animal rights Monday. Member of Parliament Roland Boyes said: "This is terrible. It is an affront to an animal loving nation." In a written statement to parliament, the government said the experiments were carried out at Porton Down, a top secret research centre in southern England run by the Ministry of Defence. The government said the experiments had been undertaken to improve understanding of the toxicology of cyanide poisoning and with a view to improving treatment.

River blindness programme to be expanded

NIAMEY (R) — Health ministers from seven West African nations met here Monday to study ways of funding an expansion of the fight against river blindness, which causes skin tumours as well as eye diseases. The Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP) — using the condition's technical name — has virtually stopped its spread in a large area over the past decade. The World Bank, the programme's chief financial backer, is expected to come under pressure to provide more money to extend the area. Over the past decade \$164 million have been spent on the programme in which tons of insecticides were poured from planes and helicopters on breeding grounds. The parasite causing river blindness is transmitted by a small black fly breeding in fast-flowing waters such as waterfalls and dams.

Bomb tossed down army officer's chimney

BELGRADE (R) — Unknown assailants in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo region tossed a bomb down an army officer's chimney that almost destroyed his apartment, the official Tanjug News Agency said Monday. Kosovo's provincial interior minister, Rahman Morin, was quoted as saying that the attack occurred last Wednesday, the eve of official celebrations marking Yugoslavia's 39th anniversary as a republic. Kosovo, which has many ethnic Albanians, has been a scene of unrest since rioting occurred there in 1981. Mr. Morin said a person in the apartment of army officer Zivko Trivic at the time of the attack had to be treated in hospital. Police had launched a wide search but no suspects had yet been found.

125 in hospital with food poisoning

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 125 people, including 20 children, were taken to hospital in the south Indian city of Hyderabad with food poisoning after a wedding feast, the Press Trust of India news agency reported Tuesday. PTI said they were out of danger but did not give other details.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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SWAP A LOSER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ A8</p> <p>♥ K83</p> <p>♦ Q75</p> <p>♣ A8652</p> <p>WEST</p> <p>♠ 643</p> <p>♥ QJ764</p> <p>♦ 98</p> <p>♣ QJ10</p> <p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ Q95</p> <p>♥ AKJ10642</p> <p>♦ K73</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ KJ109752</p> <p>♥ A102</p> <p>♦ 3</p> <p>♣ 94</p>
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The bidding:

South West North East	1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass	5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠.

Some tricks you simply have to lose. But on occasion you can determine when to lose them — to your profit.

We like the way North handled the bidding. Since he had shown slam interest with his four spade cue-bid, there was no need for him to do more than confirm diamond support at the five-level. With a dead minimum opening, South was not inclined to venture further.

West led his top spade, and declarer was not all that thrilled with his contract. East surely had the ace of hearts for his vulnerable